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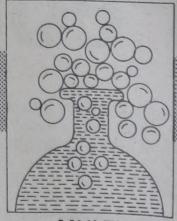
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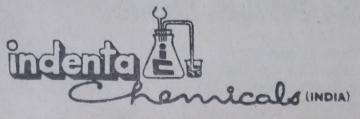
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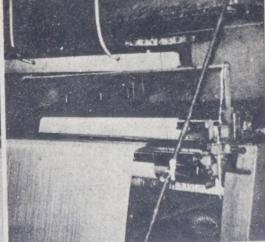
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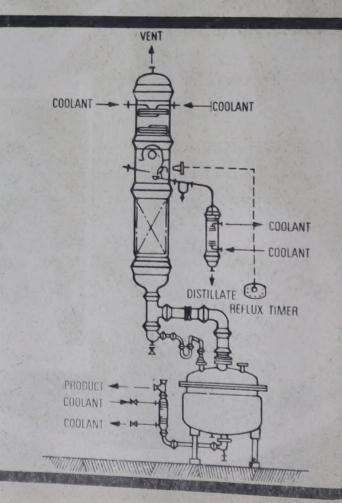
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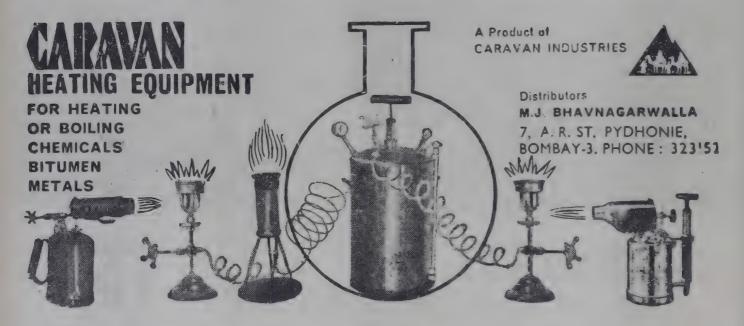
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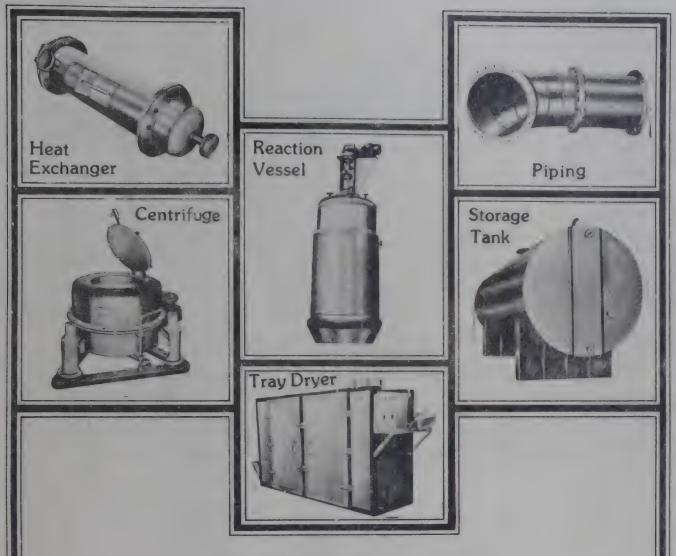
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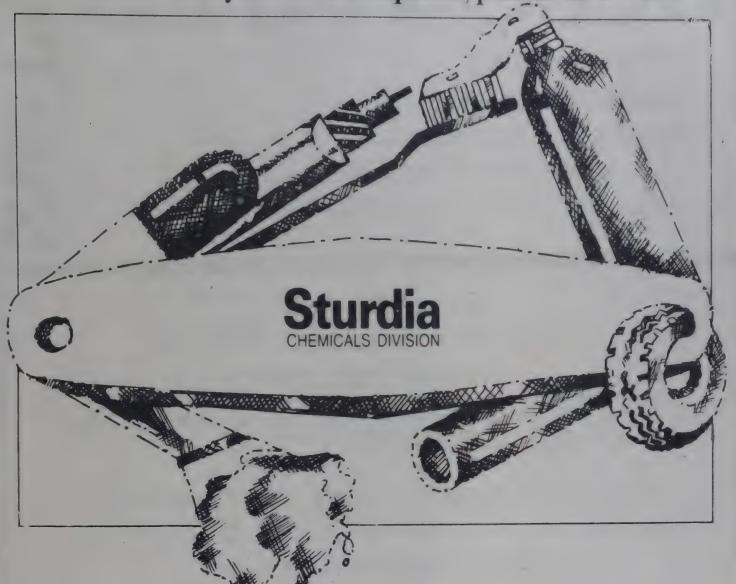
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VOL. XXXIII

**AUGUST 23, 1988** 

NO. 50.

## Magnesium the Magic Metal from the Sea

The world production of Magnesium stood at 300,000 tonnes in 1981. As of today, it is about the same but may reach 400,000 tonnes soon, if not by the turn of the century.

India uses upto 1,000 tonnes of magnesium metal every year and the whole tonnage is imported. Consumed by both strategic as well as conventional industries magnesium has probably one of the widest application for metals.

The raw material for the process used is sea bitterns containing magnesium chloride. The metal is produced by the electrolysis of magnesium chloride mixed with other salts in molten state at temperature of 700°C, when magnesium metal is produced; metal is of 99.8% purity and is suitable for making coins. The energy consumption is only 15 KW/Kg.

Magnesium metal is extracted from sea water where it is found as much as 0.11 per cent i.e. about 1 kg in every tonne of sea water and since some 1333 cubic kilometers of sea water float over our earth, it has been estimated that industry could use 100 million tonnes of magnesium each year for a million years without using up its supply.

The first magnesium plant in India was set up at Jamshedpur by the CSIR mainly with a view to develop indigenous technology in India. Efforts to transfer this technology to Indian parties were not successful. A number of public sector organisations including Bharat Aluminium Company, Hindustan Aluminium Company and Bihar Industrial Development Corporation were reported to be interested but nothing emerged. The latest reports indicate that Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation are evincing interest.

An entirely indigenous production process has been developed by the scientists working at Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, in Tamil Nadu and has been satisfactorily tested producing about 30 tonnes of Magnesium metal to the fullest satisfaction of the consumers. A prototype plant for the production of magnesium by fused salt electrolysis has been set up during 1985 at DMRL Hyderabad as a joint development project by CECRI. The plant was commissioned and operated steadily for four months at the production rate of 100-150 Kg/day with a current efficiency of 70%.

India's first magnesium plant based on indigenous CECRI technology has been planned to be set up at Valinokkam in the backward Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. This six crore plant utilising sea bitterns as the raw material has an annual targetted capacity of 600 tonnes.

Magnesium is not a consumer product and the average man may think it is far removed from his daily life but in actual fact we are surrounded by it in many forms. It is in our medicine chest as Epsom Salt or Milk of Magnesia. It forms light weight housing of many machines. It is used in making metal suitcases, binoculars and cameras. Its light weight makes it ideal for hard tools, sports gear and the like. The uranium plant of the Atomic Energy Commission consumes upto 100 tonnes of Magnesium per year.

It is also used in making automobile parts. Lighter than the common metal aluminium, it goes into some automobile engine parts and racing cars have used magnesium alloy wheels for several years. The Swedish car manufacturing company Volvo recently developed a prototype engine containing nearly 50 kgs of magnesium in alloy form. It is also used by the die casting industry and in the production of strategic metals like berrylium, titanium, zirconium and uranium. Magnesium metal powder is an essential raw material for the pyrotechnic industry which flourishes at Sivakasi in the Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu.

The annual requirement of magnesium powder is about 200 tonnes a year and is made by three manufacturers in India out of the imported metal. India is reported to be the only country in Asia to possess the technology to manufacture magnesium powder.

A material finding increasing popularity in pyrotechnics is the 50/50 alloy of magnesium and aluminium termed magnalium. The Chinese make wide use of magnalium in fireworks items to produce attractive white sparks and cracking effect.

Magnesium is a very reactive metal and makes an excellent fuel under conditions. Magnesium metal is found in most white light formula. In an oxidising flame the metal is converted to the high melting magnesium oxide, MgO, an excellent white light emitter. Also the high heat output of magnesium containing compositions helps in achieving high flame temperatures.

With the advancement of naval technology the demand for power sources of varied nature has grown leaps and bounds during the last three decades. The need for primary, activated and secondary batteries is enormous today. The submarines make use of a very high voltage and high ampere hour capacity batteries for their operation. A large number of equipment used for monitoring the signal for detection of submarines and other undersea units need activated batteries.

Magnesium-Silver Chloride, Magnesium-Cuprous chloride batteries are useful systems. In this type of application in recent years magnesium-lead chloride battery systems developed by CECRI are gaining in importance.

The torpedo is an undersea weapon which needs high power for a short duration of four to

six minutes. The battery system has to be most reliable to secure precision targetting and cost is of secondary importance. Presently magnesium — silver chloride battery is being used for application in sea to sea battle.

Magnesium is mostly used to produce aluminium alloys. A mere pinch of magnesium makes aluminium both stronger and easier to draw to great length and thinness. Light and ductile, it is one of the easiest of all metals to machine. A cutting tool shaves a thin edge off a huge slab of magnesium as a housewife slices bread. Heated to nearly 200°C and passed through a die, it assumes virtually any shape in less than two minutes.

Until 1930, there was a lack of interest on the part of large potential users like the aircraft and automobile industries. German air attacks on London during World War II changed the tide. British aeronautical experts, at a loss to account for German Luftwaffe speed and bomb-loads, discovered by examining downed German planes that magnesium-aluminium alloys were a major structural material in the German aircraft.

Today almost 50 years later, magnesium has found thousands of uses in the industry. It is used in many ultra light weight chainsaws that a lumberman can carry suspended from his hip pocket, hold in one hand and use it to fell a 40 cms. diameter tree in a few minutes. One magnesium ramp is so light and strong that a 10 tonne truck can drive up on it, yet so light that a man can carry it away. It is widely used in satellites because its lightness enables a space vehicle to reach orbit with hundreds of kilograms more instrumentation. When Mariner III was unsuccessful because of failure of its fibre glass shroud, spacecraft designers replaced this with magnesium metal and Mariner IV sailed past the planet Mars on schedule.

Magnesium alloys are increasing the speed and payloads of aircrafts on duty in any war. Because nearly 300 magnesium parts are put in any tactical fighter they can carry nearly three tonnes of arms including cannons, guided missiles, bombs and rockets. Thus the greater payload per kilogram on any supersonic aircraft in service today. The navy uses a torpedo that leaves

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Staley have a large business in Food Service business which will be sold off if T & L acquire it. But Staley shareholders are not likely to oblige.

#### Animals get patent coverage

US Patent office has issued the first patent for a genetically altered animal to Harvard University, US Pat 4736866. This covers a mouse designed to be particularly susceptible to cancer and thus help in testing carcinogenicity of chemicals and help in the design of newer cancer therapies. The patent covers 33 oncogenes from different animals ranging from chicken to human beings. The cancer causing agents can be inserted into mouse germ cells immediately after fertilisation to make the progeny highly susceptible to the particular form of cancer including breast cancer and leukaemia. There are applications with the US said to be 21 more Patent Office. A number of transgenic animals have been produced including a mouse that secretes a blood clot dissolving drug in its milk, an overgrown mouse incorporating rat growth factor genes and a cross between a goat and a sheep called a geep.

It was a year ago that the Patent Office ruled that animals could be patented. Patent coverage for genetically altered microbes was first issued in 1980 to set the ball rolling for modern biotechnology. There is much criticism on the latest decision particularly by animal groups and a Bill to hold up such patents for 2 years is before Congress. Industrial Biology Association welcomes the Patent and expects this will open up the area by published information instead of under-warp trade secrets (Source: Chemical Week of 20.4.1988).

#### Biomass gasification

Battelle Labs. in USA have released their specially developed knowhow on thermal biomass gasification to an engineering company for exploitation. Biomass contains a lot of water and requires a lot of energy to get them to dry before they can be processed. But Battelle have overcome this by in situ reaction of a 90% water slurry in the presence of a proprietory transition metal catalyst. The slurry is pumped into the reactor and at 350-450°C and pressures of 2000-4000 psi. the biomass is gasified in solution. The pressure prevents evaporation and the

gases are separated downstream to emerge as a medium Btu methane/carbon dioxide mix which can be used for process heat or generation of electricity. The surplus energy generated is claimed to be large. Bench scale continuous treatment of wide variety of wastes from breweries, potato peels, grape pomace etc. The catalyst is suspended in a spinning basket in the reactor. It is expected that the engineering company will first design and build a mobile 5 t/day wet pilot plant for detailed engineering of a 10,000 gallons/day plant.

#### Caustic Soda prices soar

There has been concern at the large increases in the price of petrochemicals and polymers but the price rise has extended to other chemicals — notably to caustic soda. In Europe the price is of the order of \$500 per tonne for

spot sales and \$200 for the running contracts. Spot prices have doubled in the past few months. Contract prices are expected to move up further to \$230/240. US prices have also moved up and so too in Japan where it has gone up to \$422 to

528/mt. Japan has a huge export to Australia for aluminium production in joint ventures. Production in Japan was a record 3.2 million tonnes last year. World alumina production has risen to 28 million tonnes and is moving up 4% a year. European spot sales of 20000/30000 tonnes have gone to USA. European production is at full capacity level of 8.6 million tonnes. Suddenly caustic soda is more valuable than chlorine.

A consequence of the jump in prices in USA is that producers are being hauled up for price fixing in a class action suit by one of the pur-

chasers. Of twelve producers six have settled for payment of \$11.9 million but six others are not interested and the case may go for trial. The six include Dow Chemicals. Long term contract price from the middle east have gone up from a distress level of \$45 to 50/te in Jan. 87 to three times that price. Producers can get \$275-290/te and maybe \$300 in a short term. We were so worried about dumping price levels from Saudi Arabia where chlorine for EDC left a lot of caustic at ridiculous price levels of of \$45/te cif Indian port and raised the cry for heavy customs levies. Such a situation is unlikely to arise again.

#### Enzymes in organic solvents

Enzymes being the active catalysts of bioreactions act in aqueous medium but apparently they can remain active in some aqueous-organic solvents as well. There have been reports of lipase activity in organic solvents. Now the action of horseradish peroxidase in water-miscible organic solvents is reported from scientists of the University of Iowa. Peroxidases catalyse biosynthesis of lignin in plants which in essence is the biosynthesis of high molecular weight phenolic resins. Use of the peroxidase to synthesise phenolic polymers in aqueous medium failed presumably due to the solubility problem and molecular weight attained was below 500. Now 85% dioxane with water helps the generation of polymers from phenol with molecular weight of 25000 and with no formal-

dehyde needed. The enzyme is not active in pure dioxane. Horseradish peroxidase is more active in solvents like methanol and dioxane mixed with water. This enzyme is said to be readily available at low cost for large scale uses.

Some powdered enzymes suspended in organic solvents have shown activity and show also novel properties. Chymotrypsin which catalyses hydrolysis of peptides in aqueous solution promotes transesterification of amino acids in a variety of anhydrous organic solvents with far less substrate specificity. There are explanations of such strange activity on the basis of substrate enzyme binding characteristics. Some of these enzymic reactions can alter the face of synthesis of bio compounds in future.

#### Geotextiles

Plastic fibremats from polypropylene have become very useful to reshape landscape and for construction. Close to 300 million square yards of what are called geotextiles were used last year and an annual growth of 10 to 12% is expected until 1992. Phillips Fiber Corporation, Timberlake, SC, is a leader in this. A Supac Geotextile under a layer of crushed rock strengthens roads built on soft soil. It is used to prevent soil erosion in riverbanks or ocean shoreline — it could be a boon for some of our eroding seashores such as in Kerala. Salt fences to retain sediment that would otherwise pollute the site are very useful. The largest use is to form asphalt overlays absorbing the liquid asphalt beneath the road surface and forming a waterproof seal. Polypropylene is the polymer of choice for geotextiles and is durable and of

lower cost. Geotextiles may be in continuous filaments wound together into yarn and woven into desired shape or separate pieces joined together. Many application of non wovens are being taken over by geotextiles or geomembranes. Landfills and waste sites can be properly handled for lining. For waste sites the fibre mat is unrolled and covered with soil, asphalt or other aggregate and serves as an excellent barrier. A new material called Texsol from France is said to be made by weaving continuous polymer fibres into soil mixtures at the construction site. 35000 m<sup>2</sup> of Texsol is said to have been used already since 1982. There is need to have a detailed study of some of the available geotextiles and methods of application to prevent soil and coastal erosion in India.

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## RPL will start making EO

Reliance Petrochemicals Ltd. (RPL) is expected to join the list of producers of ethylene oxide (EO) by 1989. 90.

Out of its licensed capacity of 60,000 TPA, RPL would require about 40,000 tonnes of glycols for captive consumption of Reliance Industries Ltd. Part of the remaining 20,000 tonnes would be marked as EO depending on the market demand, industry sources

In 1990, RPL, along with India Glycols, is expected to contribute around 18,000 TPA of EO. Another 5,000 tonnes will be produced by IPCL's Maharashtra gas cracker complex around the same time. Ethylene is reacted with oxygen to produce ethylene oxida. which is further processed to manu-(MEG) facture monoethylene glycol and polyethylene glycols.

Meanwhile, EO consumers, whose products have shown a spurt in demand in the domestic and international markets, have urged manufacturers to step up production. However, against the background of growing demand, relative shortage would continue until fresh capacities are commissioned, industry sources say.

At present, there are only two manufacturers of EO - Indian Petrochemioals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL) and National Organic Chemical Industries Ltd. (NOCIL). IPCL produces around 600 tonnes a month and NOCIL around 900 tonnes.

EO consumers (producers of textile auxiliaries, emulsifiers, pesticides and pour point depressants) have charged that NOCIL and IPCL are diverting EO for the manufacture of glycols. They attribute this to compulsions following worldwide shortage of MEG. Though priced high MEG can be imported, while EO, being a hazardous gas, cannot be imported, according to Mr. M.D. Dhamankar of the Indian Chemical Auxiliaries Manufacturers Association (ICAMA).

A spokesman for EO manufacturers denies the charge that they are giving priority to production of MEG. IPCL produced 7,420 tonnes in 1987-88, 42 per cent more than its production during the previous year. Indeed, IP-CL sold more EO by cutting down glyco: production, he says. Similarly NO. CIL put 10,000 tonnes into the market this year as against less than 9,000 tonnes lest year.

The spokesman has acknowledged that there has been a shortage of EO of late, caused by the shut-down of IP-CL's and NOCIL's production facilities, The recommissioning got delayed because of catalyst change. Both plants have now resumed production. He had denied that there was any pressure to divert EO to manufacture MEG.

He says EO consumers have highly erratic in lifting supplies of this hazardous gas which has to be consumed early, failing which it will create storage and environmental problems, Only a year ago there were few takers for EO and producers had to offer discounts, he adds.

At a news conference in Bombay recently, ICMA officials said textile exports, which is a major foreign exchange earner for the country, would be adversely affected if the chemical industry is not supplied with EO condensates. EO is also a vital raw material for the manufacture of ethanolamines, glycol others, dye intermediates leather chemicals, all of which either import substitutes or thrust areas for export.

EO consuming industries employ some 20,000 people, and a majority of the units are in the small sector. According to ICAMA, the industry requires about 20,000 tonnes of EO.

#### CRL EXPANSION AWAITS **CLEARANCE**

Cochan Refineries Ltd. (CRL) which which hopes to complete on schedule its aromatic project now under implementation is awaiting Central clearance for yet another expansion programme already submitted to the Government.

The Rs. 30-crore expansion schema now before the Contre, envisages the increase of the refinery's processing capacity by 1.5 million tonnes a year. The present processing capacity of the Cochin Refinaries is 4.5 million tonnes of clude oil per annum. The proposed expansion scheme would help the refinery raise it to six million ton-

Talking to a team of newsmen who visited the refine y at Ambalamugal reCORRIGENDUM

In the Advertisement of A-One Chemicals, Published in the Chemical Weekly Issue of 19th July (Page Number 59), the Pincode of medabad was Wrongly Published. The Correct Pincode Number Is 380 001, The Error Is Regretted. - The Advertising Manager.

cently, the CRL Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. J. Jayaraman, claimed that the expansion scheme could be completed in 13 months. In other words, once the final clearance is given, the refinery's processing capacity would go up by 1.5 million tonnes.

Mr. Jayaraman said that the expansion scheme is being actively considered by the Union Government.

The Chairman stated that by 1988-89, the Cochin Refineries is likely to achieve cent per cent capacity utilisation. The refinery had already achieved 91,36 per cent capacity utilisation last year. The refinery processed 4.1 million tonnes of crude against its capacity to process 4.5 million tonnes, he pointed out.

On the Rs. 85-crore aromatic project Mr. Jayaraman said the work is in progress and is expected to be commissioned on schedule within the approved cost. The project has a capacity to produce 87,200 tonnes of benzene and 12,000 tonnes of toluene in -a year.

Besides, the project would also produce 19,250 tonnes of liquid petroleum gas, 6,000 tonnes of petrol and two lakh tonnes of diesel oil a year,

Naphtha produced in the refinery itself is the major raw material for the project.

The benzene unit of the aromatic project is to be commissioned by Feb. ruary next. By August next, the toluene production would also be commissioned.

Mr. Jayaraman informed that the refinery is now installing at a cost of Rs. 10 crores a microprocessor based distributed digital control system. The system made in Japan is to ensure safer operations in the refinery and also to help optimise production.



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## HFL may import PTFE resins

The government may not take the extreme step of totally banning the import of polytetrafluoroethylene (PT-FE), a raw material for the engineering plastics.

Instead, Hindustan Fluorccarbons Ltd (HFL), the sole manufacturer of PTFE resins in the country, may be entrusted with the task of importing grades which it does not manufacture for the user industry.

This seems to be the government's time of thinking, according to the processors who had a meeting, with HFL authorities to discuss the issues connected with the manufacture of PTFE by HFL.

Mr. M.S. Murthy, adviser (Chemicals), department of chemicals and petrochemicals who attended the meeting, is reported to have told the processors to submit a list of grades of PTFE which are used at present in their units along with their annual requirements of each grade.

He is also reported to have told the processors that if HFL was not in a position to manufacture these grades, the company would arrange for their imports.

The processors fear that the new arrangement may lead to a situation whereby the inefficiencies of HFL would be passed on to the processors by pooling the prices of imported and indigenously manufactured PTFE resins.

Another area of fear, seems to be that in a monopolistic situation achieved by HFL, at the expense of small processors, the prices would be hiked according to the suppliers whims and fancies leading to attrition of the processors margins and ultimately hitting the very viability of these units.

The inability to supply resins at International prices would lead to stifling of export earnings for PTFE finished goods, according to a processor.

The processors, however, were able to get an assurance from HFL that it will go into the lacunae in the import policy regarding import of certain finished goods of PTFE such as tapes, tubes, sealants, scrap tapes, which at the moment has hit the indigenous units

very badly. HFL has promised to help the processors by representing on their behalf with the various ministries concerned.

Against a world demand of 40,000 tons of PTFE resins of various grades India's demand is only a meagre 200 tonnes. The processors say that this gives no room for foreign suppliers to dump PTFE in the Indian market.

The government's thinking to ban import of PTFE on this ground, is an excuse to cover up for the short-comings of HFL the processors said While 50 to 60 grades are available worldwide, HFL manufactures only 11 grades.

Moreover, processors have frequently complained to HFL about the poor quality of the molding grades, dispersion grades and glass filled grades. Though HFL had admitted to the poor quality of its resins to individual processors and also during the meeting, it is yet to take corrective measures to solve the problem.

With most of the supplies of HFL going abegging, because of the inferior quality, the HFL chairman and managing director Mr. H. Krishnamurthy, is reported to have fold the processors during the meeting that if their consumption of HFL manufactured resins is not increased, HFL will seriously consider manufacturing downstream PTFE finished goods.

This is bound to affect the market ability of small scale processors and also violate the internationally accepted practice of a resins manufacturer not processing its own end products, the processors claimed.

# PROTEST AGAINST INCREASE IN PRICES OF POLYMERS INDIGENOUSLY

Mr. Anil B. Goradia, President. Al-PMA has issued the following state, ment to the press:

The periodic increase in the price of raw materials by indigenous manufacturers taking advantage of the shortage of commodity plastics in the international market has now become a common feature. Only about four months ago, IPCL raised the price of LDPE

by Rs. 3/- per kg. Now, it is reported that it is contemplating to raiso the price again and this is bound to be followed by other manufacturers If this trend goes on, the small scale processing units, a majority of which are in the small scale sector, will be driven to the wall as it is not possible to pass on such rises to large endusers. At the same time it will effect several vital applications of the common man. In this situation, the solution lies in the Government drastically reducing the customs duty on essential raw materials so that the processing units can import their needed requirements. If this is not done immediately, many of them will fall sick and eventually die. At the same time, the Government has also a duty to devise suitable machinery to stop arbitrary increase in prices by indigenous manufacturers especially when the inputs such as naphtha, continue to be available to the petrochemical units at 86/ 87 prices only from public sector units.

# CONCERN OVER DELAY IN REVISING CRUDE GIL ROYALTY

The Members of Parliament elected from Gujarat have expressed concern over the delay in revising the rate of royalty for crude oil. It is felt that the existing rate of royalty has no reasonable relationship with the market value of crude oil. They said that the rate of royalty should be immediately revised to reflect the current market value on the basis of the principle of netback value.

The members noted that if the royalty rate is revised on this principle, with effect from the due date. April 1, 1987 the State's financial crisis would be alleviated.

# PROF. N. R KAMATH MEMORIAL LECTURE

Prof. N. R. Kamath Memorial Lecture by Dr. F. A. Mehta (Chairman, Goodlass Nerolac Paints Ltd. and Forbes Group) on Decaying Cities — Decaying Industries? is to be held at 6.00 p.m. on Thursday, 8th September 1988 at the University Department of Chemical Technology, Matunga, Bombay-400 019. All are cordially invited.

# Plant for "Kevlar" to be built in Japan soon

E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Tory Industries announced on 8th Augnat they have decided to proceed with lans for a manufacturing facility for evlar (TM) Aramid Fibre in Japan. he continued high growth rate of sals of Kevlar in Japan and Asia, plus he very positive response of custoners to several new, second-generaon products, has encouraged them to ake this step.

In January, 1985, the two companies formed a business relationship on evelar in their 50/50 joint venture, Du cont-Toray, Co., Ltd. (TDC), to market and produce this High Performance Fibre in Japan. Working closely with Du Pont-Toray to sell fibre imported by them from the United States, Toray's "KEVLAR" Department has developed extensive market and product knowledge with Kevlar.

After detailed studies are completed ater this year, design and construction of manufacturing facilities for Kevlar will begin. The plant to be built by Du-Toray Co. is currently being planted to be located within Toray's Toray site in Aichi Prefecture.

Production cacacity is projected to eventually reach 5000 tons per year. When this capacity is ultimately installed, it is estimated over 10 Billion Year USD 78 million) in permanent investment will be required. Du Font will incense its patented production and product technology for Kevlar and will bring more than 15 years manufacturing experience and knownow to the joint venture.

After construction is complete at the end of 1990, Du Pont-Toray will produce Kevlar Fibre to supply market needs in Japan and other countries in Asia. The plant will have the newest design and the most advanced technologies, including those that were recently demonstrated by Du Pont during the commercial startup of a new manufacturing plant for Kevlar near condonderry, Northern Ireland, which serves European markets.

Du Pont-Toray's plant will be the third manufacturing facility, for Kevlar in the world. Du Pont has been producing Kevlar in Richmond, Virginia, since 1971.

Keviar is the first and foremost Super Para-Aramid Fibre. It was inven-

ted by Du Pont over 20 years ago and introduced in Japan and Asia in 1974. It has found numerous applications throughout the world in many high performance and highly engineered applications. Kevlar is used as reinforcement for Radial Tyres, Power Transmission Belts, Industrial and Automotive Houses, Advanced Composites for Aerospace and Sports equipment, Friction Products such as brakes and clutches, Speciality Cables, Ropes for safety, fishing and other marine uses, and in Cut, Heat and Ballistic Resistant Protective Apparel.

# SUPPORT ASSURED FOR PETROCHEM UNITS IN ORISSA

The Centre has assured the Orissa Government that it would give all-out support for the development of the chemical and petrochemical industries in the State.

The assurance was given by the Union Chemical and Petrochemicals Secretary, Mr. H. K. Khan, during his meeting with the Chief Minister, Mr. J. B. Patnaik, in Bhubaneshwar, recently.

He said the State's plastic industries, which had hitherto been getting only 10 to 15 per cent of their raw material requirement, would henceforth get their full requirement, both from indigenous and imported sources.

He said difficulties faced by Orissa Synthetics Ltd., a joint sector unit in Dhenkanal district, in raw materials procurement and other matters, would be taken care of in consultation with the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), other Central agencies and the State Government.

Mr. Khan gave the assurance that his department would lend full support in case the proposed basic drugs complex is coming up in Orissa. He indicated that the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL) and Petrofils Ltd., both Union Government undertakings, were providing assistance in various fields in Kalahandi and Koraput districts.

Mr. Khan, who also had a meeting with the industries Minister, Mr. Niranjan Patnaik, and top officials, also promised that the State's proposal for the setting up of a few petrochemical industries such as biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) would be favourably considered.

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# Antop Hill godown

The proposed chemical godown at Antop Hill at Bombay has been classified as "the most hazardous unit" and an expert committee appointed by the state government has opposed the project.

The state government has kept the report of the expert committee headed by Mr. R. K. Garg confidential. A writ petition seeking cancellation of the licence given to the Antop Hill Warehousing Corporation is pending before the Bombay high court.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the government, while accepting the Garg committee report, sought further advice on what could be stored in the proposed godown. Based on a list of non-hazardous chemicals given by the Garg committee, the state government permitted the Antop Hill Warehousing Corporation to build its godown. However, the Union government intervened and asked the Maharashtra government to stay the permission granted until further advice.

Though the Garg committee submit, ted its report in July, 1987 the state cabinet had approved it only a few months ago. This included the list of chemicals allowed to be stored.

#### No Responsibility

The Garg committee was appalled to find that there was no one to accept responsibility for the safety aspects of the grandiose chemical godown project. The promoters of the project said they would only build the godown and allot the premises to their memb-The members were free thev store whatever chemical and in manner any wanted. in any quantity. Absence of a responsible agency for ensuring safety was the primary ground on which the Garg committee opposed the project.

Assuming that someone could be found for ensuring safety, when the committee asked if there was any mechanism to prevent storage of different chemicals in the same enclosure, there was no assurance. It transpired that even chemicals which would cause explosion and fire on mu'ual reaction would be stored in the same room, thow would one ensure that the traders stored such reactive chemicals safely in separate places? The promoters of the project had no answer.

The project report did not envisage installation of any safety systems or equipment. Should any chemical drum leak, there was no specified procedure to handle the situation.

On top of it, the proposed godown is surrounded by residential units and the Garg committee asked the promoters how these inhabitants could be removed to safer zones. The answer was that they came much later than the project was envisaged and the government could be approached to shift them. But, the Garg committee did not find any satisfactory solution to protect human beings living near the site.

#### Chemical List

Studying the list of hundreds of chemicals proposed to be stored, with no accompanying safety measures, the Garg committee disapproved the proposal. However, the members of the Antop Hill Warehousing Corporation, comprising industrial, and business personalities, sought the government's help in utilising the place. The corporation had already spent crores of rupees on the project. Then, the Garg committee was asked to give a list of what could be stored in the place.

A state government source said the ball was in the court of the Centre and the state government has kept the matter in cold storage. If the Bombay high court directed the state government to produce the Garg committee report, it would be furnished.

Mr. R. K. Garg, chairman and managing director of Indian Rare Earths Ltd., when contacted declined to give details of the report on the ground that it would be improper for him to do so. He, however, deplored the attitude of the state government in keeping the report confidential as it was a matter of public importance.

Courtesy: The Times of India

# 'PRICE WAR BY SMALL UNITS HITS DRUG EXPORTS'

The price war being waged by the small-scale drug manufacturers has affected the export of certain essential drugs, according to Dr. K. Shankaran, Director of Drugs in the Union Ministry of Chemicals.

Addressing the southern regional meeting of the Basic Chemicals, Phar-

Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) recently, he wanted the Council to use its good offices to stop the suicidal competition due to which certain drugs such as ibuprofen are being exported at much lower prices.

He called upon the small-scale manufacturers who export such drugs to form a cartel and prevent the fall in prices.

Dr. Shankaran noted that the situation today is ideal for increasing the export of chemicals and pharmaceuticals. This is because most of the international drug patents are due to lapse soon. Besides, the Food and Drug Administration of the US has identified 37 Indian drug units whose products have been found acceptable in that country.

He pointed out that the Government has selected chemicals and pharmaceuticals as major thrust areas for export promotion. Consequently, a 15-year action plan has been formulated and the Government will solve all the problems faced by the industry.

Mr. Ramu S. Deora, Chairman of CHEMEXCIL, said that the Council is hopeful of exceeding the target of Rs. 1000 crores in the current year as against the Rs. 783 crores achieved last year.

He thanked the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, for offering concessions in supply of raw materials and intermediates at international prices by the public sector units to boost exports.

He disclosed that the Council has forwarded action plans of about 250 member-firms for consideration of the Commerce Ministry. He urged the industry and trade to maintain the tempo so that the chemical sector achieves the export target of Rs. 5,000 crores set for 2000 A.D.

Coming to the performance of the South on the export front, the Chairman observed that though there has been an increase in the exports from the region, it has yet to catch up with the overall growth rate achieved by the Council as a whole.

At the same time, there has been an increase in the number of members from the South which stood at 393 as on date. Thus, there is tremendous notential for growth of exports from the region, Mr. Deora said, and asked the exporters to chalk out action plans in this regard.

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(Contd. from p. 34)

no telltale wake of bubbles, because it uses magnesium silver chloride wet cell battery instead of compressed air for power. Seawater triggers the electrochemical charges of this battery just as distilled water triggers a car battery. The same cells provide independent power for ocean buoys which collect meteorological data and radio it back to the base station on the coast.

Dow Chemicals of the US is the single largest producer of magnesium today, followed by West Germany. Today a surprising 90 per cent of magnesium produced in the US comes from sea water. Magnesium ranks eighth in the order of metal production.

International Magnesium Association reports of two technologies that help brighten magnesium's long term assured future. involves selectively reinforcing stress point castings. These castings could combine the magnesium aluminium weight advantage with the stiffness characteristics of steel. Candidate auto parts include pistons. connecting rods, rocker arms, cylinder heads and engine blocks. The second technology involved the application of magnesium extrusions to high volume non-weather exposed auto parts. Extruded magnesium is currently being evaluated for structural applications by highway truck trailer manufacturers.

Because of the prevailing high prices of the metal in the international market, the Govt. of India have issued a letter of intent for a second Magnetium plant to be located in Orissa.

India's current requirement of this metal are being imported from Canada, West Germany, UK, USA and Norway.

Average human being carries about one ounce of magnesium, half of it in bone salts, the rest in individual cells where it activates various enzymes involved in producing chemical energy. A very small amount is circulated for external fluids and helping in nervous and muscular actions. Magnesium deficiency is the result of inadequate diet and can show up in

muscular tremors. Dairy and grain products, legumes, nuts and green vetgetables all contribute useful amounts of magnesium in the diet. The presence of magnesium in hard water is well known.

On the average, fruits and vegetables contribute 1% of our daily intake of fat, 7% protein, 20% niocene, thiamine and iron and 25% magnesium.

The chlorophyll molecule has a ring structure and has a magnesium atom at the centre with a long Hydrocarbon Tail, called the phytyl, group at one end. The phytyl group and the central atom are easily removed during cooking.

Of the magnesium ores magnesite refractories are of great importance in the metallurgy of steel and non ferrous metals, as they are used exclusively for that part of the furnace that comes into contact with the molten metal and Slag, a large tonnage being utilised in the bottoms and side banks of the open hearth furnaces.

Magnesite deposits are found in Salem district in Tamil Nadu, Mysore, Ajmer in Rajasthan, Pithoragarh and Almora districts of Uttar Pradesh and Singhbhum in Bihar. 97% of the magnesite marketed is consumed by the refractory producers catering to the ferrous and non ferrous industries.

Magnesite is marketed both in calcined and raw new forms on the basis of MgO content. Calcined magnesite is also used for special cement, Rubber and Magnesia boiler lagging compounds. Crude magnesite is consumed by epsom salt manufacturers. Inferior grade magnesite having higher silica content is consumed by mosaic flooring and tile manufacturers.

Although magnesium occurs in minor quantities in some soils, it does not appear to have any role as a micronutrient in agriculture.

# Nagarjuna fert. a drain on exchange?

Is the Rs. 635-crore Nagarjuna feriliser project in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, leading the country to a foreion exchange drain questions a news paper report.

The answer to this multi-million rupee question lies in whether the Government sanctions the import of certain equipment listed by the project authorities to be purchased under the international Competitive Bidding (ICB).

Information available from reliable sources indicate that as many as 113 items out of a total 219 have been listed for import under ICB, while the rest have been earmarked for local purchases. However the fact remains that as many as 86 of these 113 items meant for purchase abroad have already been supplied by Indian manufacturers to various end users in the past,

The industry sources fear that there is every likelihood of the equipment being cleared for purchase under ICB, thereby adversely affecting the domestic industry.

The sources feel tht under the home manufacturers will be facing a number of hindrances that would render their prices uncompetitive. These are (i) different evaluation formulae for comparing offers received from indigenous bidders and overseas suppliers (ii) deemed export benefits under the World Bank formula will not be available to them in the case of ICB (iii) the evaluation formula will remain unknown at the time of making available tender documents to Indian bidders and (iv) the indigenous manufacturers will remain subjected to a 40-60 per cent duty on imported components in addition to excise duty and sales tax although the import of fertilises equipment will be extended a 15 per cent duty concession.

In the case of such an eventuality, there is little doubt that the indigenous manufacturers will lose the competitive edge, the sources add. Furthermore the sources fear that the indigenous capacities will be rendered idle and underutilised resulting in considerable loss of financial and manpower invest-

Moreover, if import of these equipment is ultimately resorted to, not only will the domestic industry be seriously

jeopardised but also the outgo of to reign exchange will continue on a prolonged basis in the form of dependence on spares and replacements.

Already, most of the existing domestic units have subsisting collaborations with access to the latest technology and a considerable amount of foreign exchange is remitted every year for this purpose, the sources point out.

Because of these existing collaborations, the indigenous manufacturers have been able to supply equipment in the past to major fertiliser plants and other companies: The major plants to which equipment have been supplied are: Hinudstan Fertiliser Corporation Limited (HFCL), National Fertilisers Limited (NFL), CFL, IFFCO, GNFC. GSFC, Kribhco, Indo-Gulf Fertilisers, Sri Ram Fertilisers, Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilisers, RCF, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), Engineers India Limited (EIL), SCIC, FACT, Rourkela Steel Plant SAIL, IEL, TISCO, UPSCB, and MPEB.

# GLOBE ORGANICS TO PRODUCE NEW DRUG

Globe Organics Ltd., belonging to the Dr. Reddy's group of companies, plans to produce dextromethophan, a drug which is how the monopoly of two US multinationals.

Globe's ranitidine plant at Pedade-vulapalli (Nalgonda district) went on stream in June 1988. It is expected to produce 30 tonnes of ranitidine this year. Ranitidine is the latest in a series of H2 antagonists, a billion dollar product with a growth rate of 25-30 per cent per annum. The company plans to step up production of this vital anti-ulcer drug to 100 tonnes to meet the increasing demand.

Cheminor, also belonging to Dr. Reddy's group, pioneered the production of ibuprofen in India, and is toda/ the largest producer. It made 212 tonnes of this drug last year. More than 80 per cent of this drug is exported.

With the commissioning of naproxen and cephelexin plants, and the diversification of Cheminor, Dr. Reddy's group is poised to reach a turnover of Rs. 50 crores in 1989-90 and expects to earn more than Rs. 25 crores in foreign exchange from exports.

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FERTILISER PROJECTS :

# Marked progress in execution

With a third HBJ gas-based fertiliser project expected to go on stream shortly, fertiliser project management seems to have registered major improvements.

The Indo-Gulf Fertitisers and Chemicals Project at Jagdishpur in UP will not only be ready on schedule, but also without any cost overrun. The Aonla unit of the Indian Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) was also ready in time early this year, as was the National Fertilisers Limited's Vijaipur plant late last year. Both these projects were also commissioned at less than the initial project cost.

This is a major change from the history of fertiliser project in India—with cost and time overruns being routine in the 1970s and early 1980s. The average project gestation period has been reduced from between 48 and 60 months to 36 months. It is being further reduced to 30 months in the second stream of Aonla.

Experts in the fertiliser industry attribute this change to several factors; better project management, closer monitoring of schedules, the use of proven technology and free access to foreign exchange.

A quick analysis of some of the major fertiliser project that were delayed in the past reveals that bilateral financing, tied aid and unproven technology were the main factors responsible for time and cost overruns. There was a mismatch of technologies and equipment. This was the time when the country was experiencing a foreign exchange crunch and equipment orders were placed with countries that offered aid.

The coal-based plants at Ramagundam and Talcher were planned when the coal-based fertiliser technology was in, its infancy. At that time only one coal-based fertiliser plant was in operation in the world, in South Africa

and India could not seek its help. The result was a four-year delay in commissioning the plants and costs registered an almost a 100 per cent increase.

The Sindri rationalisation plant was based on Bulgarian technology, tied to the use of Bulgarian aid. This was also behind schedule by almost four years and had a more than 100 per cent cost overrun. The plant never operated at more than 20 per cent of its capacity and had to be ultimately closed.

Durgapur and FACT Cochin I are also the victims of bilateral credit and upproven technologies. Haldia should have been commissioned in December 1976 and is yet to start production. It has a record 19 bilateral credits to its credit.

As against this, the projects financed by the World Bank and those having free access to foreign exchange were completed in 36 months, Hazira, Vijaipur and Aonla were also ready for commissioning within three years of the zero date.



The World Bank-financed projects or those having free access to foreign exchange were free to select proven technologies. IEL has the ICI technology. DCF Thal, Hazira, Vijaipur, Aonla and Jagdishpur have Haldor Topsoo and Snam/Kellogg technologies.

International competitive bidding also ensured the supply of the right equipment to these plants at competitive prices and in time.

With the passage of time, the Indian consultants have also gained experience and move from an era of ad hoc planning to the latest techniques of management. Experience has also made the consultants cut down on time required for detailed engineering. Earlier this task used to take at least 18 months. Now it takes six months less.

Moreover, since most of the recent fertiliser plants are gas-based, these require much less equipment than those run on Naphtha, fuel oil or coal:

An expediting team has become absolutely essential for all the fertiliser projects. Earlier, the promoters used to leave the entire job of expediting the project to the consultants. Now, besides the promoters taking a direct interest in the early completion of the project, also insist on the consultants forming the expediting teams for the timely procurement of equipment and completion of the project.

Industry sources say that a competent expediting team can save six to eight months of completion time, Indo-Gulf Fertilisers had a six member expediting team.

Immediately after finalising the project plans, orders are placed for the supply of equipment, it has been increasingly realised that every year of delay results in a 10 per cent cost overrun.

In earlier projects, design and procurement used to be the responsibility of the consultant and the promoter used to get the civil work done at the site himself. This used to result in the equipment reaching the site and the civil work not completed or vice-versa.

This trend changed in 1978-79 when the single-point responsibility came into existence. Sources say that this was another major factor that helped in cutting down drastically on time and cost overruns.

INDIAN STANDARDS RELATING TO PETROLEUM, COAL AND RELATED PRODUCTS

The Bureau of Indian Standards has published the following new and revised Indian Standards relating to the field of Petroleum, Coal and Related Products:

IS:446-1987 — Rubber air hose (fourth revision)

IS:517-1986 — Methanol (methyl alcohol) (second revision)

IS:1012-1987 — Turbine lubricating oils (second revision)

IS:1088-1987 — Lubricants for clock like mechanism and precision instruments (second revision)

IS:3400 (Part 1)-1987 — Methods of test for vulcanized rubbers: Part 1 Tensile stress-strain properties (second revision); (Part 4) — Accelerated ageing (second revision)

IS:9316 (Part 2)-1987 — Methods of test for rubber latex: Part 2 Determination of viscosity (RL:2) (first revision); (Part 7) — Determination of total copper (RL:7)

Copies of these Indian Standards are available from the Sales Services at BIS Headquarters at New Delhi and Regional and Branch Offices located at Bombay, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Madras, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Guwanati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Patna and Trivandrum.

#### NCCIL HIKES MEG PRICE

The National Organic Chemicals Industries Limited (NOCIL) has hiked ex-factory selling price of MEG (mono ethylene glycol) by Rs. 1,500 per tonne today, It is learnt.

NOCIL's new selling price is Rs. 18,850 per tonne against Rs. 17,350 prevailing since the beginning of the curret year.

The Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL), the only other MEG producer in the country, had raised its selling price from Rs. 17,400 per tenne to Rs. 18,500 from August 4, 1988.

MEG is one of the major raw materials for polyester industry. Its availability from indigenous sources have come down considerably and even supply from international markets is erratic.

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SHAHJAHANPUR FERTILISER PROJECT :

## NRI, Oswal Agro main contenders

A non-resident Indian and the Oswal Agro group are emerging as the main contenders for the Shahjahanpur gas-based fertiliser project.

Most of the public and co-operative sector fertiliser companies are also in the run for the project, the letter of intent for which was held till recently by the Caparo group of Mr. Swraj Paul.

The non-resident Indian this time is one Dr. B.K. Pande who is a leading heart specialist in the USA. He is executive vice-president of the US-based Shakti International Resources Incorporated.

Dr. Pande reportedly met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New York during his visit there, and showed interest in taking up the project. The Prime Minister reportedly advised Dr. Pande to write to the concerned ministry regarding it.

in his application for the letter of intent, Dr Pande has offered to meet

the entire foreign exchange requirement of the project. He has also offered to arrange all the funds required for his share of the equity.

In its application for the letter of intent, the Oswal Agro group has said that it wants to diversify into production of urea fertilisers.

The existing range of the group's activities include manufacture of industrial hard oil, vegetable ghee, refined oil, sugar, toilet soap, distilled battery acids, glycerine, oxygen, rice, chemicals and power generation (from agro waste).

It has joined hands with the Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation for implementing the Rs. 62-crore 100 per cent export-oriented unit — Oswal Agro Furane Limited — for the manufacture of furfural and edible rice bran oil. The project consists of rice milling with 120 tph capacity — the largest in the world.

The group says it has substantial financial strength. Its annual turnover for 1987 was Rs. 200 crores, and is projected to exceed Rs. 300 crores in 1988 and Rs. 500 crores in 1989.

Based on the current market price, the net worth of the group companies stands at Rs. 300 crores.

According to the application, the group companies have surplus funds to the extent of Rs. 100 crores which can be gainfully utilised in the project. The group will be willing to invest its further annual accruals for the purpose.

It says that the group enjoys excellent rapport with and confidence of its shareholders numbering 2.5 lakhs, and is confident of raising further resources from its shareholders.

The group says that it is interested in setting up a 2,500 tpd urea fertiliser plant. The funds required can be met from surpluses available with it internal accruals and shareholders. It has asserted that "all funds required shall be met from our own resources without involvement of any loans from any financial institutions."

# TITANIUM NITRIDE COATING SAVES JET MONEY

Significant savings in overhaul time and in the scrap rate of expensive components are being made at the multimillion pound Joint European Torus (JET) fusion project as a result of using titanium nitride coating technology developed by the Tacvac company from Cambridge in eastern England.

In the past, up to 30 per cent of expensive alloy fasteners were scrapped because they "picked up", or cold welded, and jammed. They had to be drilled out laboriously and expensively. Now, following the introduction of titanium nitride coating to these fasteners, the scrap rate has been reduced to just one per cent.

Tecvac says that the same coating technique could also benefit other nuclear systems and high level engineering systems such as gas turbines and power generating equipment.

The JET laboratory near London is one of the leading co-operative European research centres. It was set up in 1978 to design, build and operate the latest nuclear fusion experimental machine, the precursor of fusion reac-

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In the heart of the system is one of the world's largest ultra-high 'vacuum ystems, capable of operating at high emperatures and ultra high vacuum ontinuously for periods of up to 12 nonths between maintenance periods, emperatures as high as 100 million legrees centigrade are being sought and the overall aim is to create nuclear fusion as a source of energy in the same way that it is generated in the sun and the stars.

The alloy fasteners now treated by itanium nitride are used to hold graphite tiles in places within the fusion chamber, where the fusion process is neld within a magnetic "cage". Because of the arduous conditions, all asteners have to be made in heat resistant alloys or other performance materials which are notorious for their ability to "pick up" or cold weld. Previously, other coatings such as gold and silver plating were tried, but they were expensive and only provided a partial answer.

The application of titanium nitride coating by Tecvac's PVD process has solved the problem. The coating has ow co-efficient of friction, chemical nertness and an insignificant effect on the very close screw tolerances required of the fasteners. Tecvac has east completed a batch of 20,000 fasteners for the JET laboratory, having processed a similar quantity last year.

Now, the laboratory managers can confidently predict the time for maintenance periods, knowing that virtually all the fasteners will easily undo, thus allowing the maintenance period to proceed unhindered.

Further applications for the coating are envisaged by Tecvac in large and nightly stressed machines that have to use high strength fasteners under difficult conditions — such as aircraft and naval gas turbines, and electricity generating turbines. Further information from Tecvac Ltd, Stow cum Quy, Camprige, England CB5 9AB.

# MPORT POLICY CHANGES HIT FORMIC ACID UNITS

Manufacturers of formic acid have alleged that large quantities of duty-free material imported under the advance licensing scheme are being released in the open market at cheap

prices, causing serious marketing problems.

The three manufacturs of formic acid
— Periyar Chemicals Ltd., Kerala
Acids and Chemicals Ltd. and Southern
Formates Ltd. have a combined installed capacity of 3,700 tonnes.

All the three have reported large inventories. A fourth unit with a capacity of 5000 tpa is scheduled to begin production later this year, Formic acid is used in leather chemicals.

Manufacturers have complained that recent modifications in import policies have adversely affected them. These include raising of the Rep entitlement of formic acid for finished leather exports from 1.5 per cent to five per cent by the December 1986 notification. The earlier entitlement of 1.5 per cent was fixed after a detailed study by BICP and did not warrant change they feel.

This liberalisation has resulted in the import of several hundreds of tonnes of formic acid by the trade. What has alarmed the indigenous units is that as per the 1983-89 policy, the Rep entitlement has been further increased to "an alarming 15 per cent". With leather exports projected at Rs. 1,000 cro-

res per annum, import of formic acid will exceed 12,000 tonnes against the country's total requirement of about 4,000 tonnes, according to the manufacturers.

They have requested the Government to effect the following changes: restoration of Rep entitlement to 1.5 per cent, withdrawal of the facility to import formic acid under the advance licensing scheme and increasing the basic import duty from 100 per cent to 150 per cent.

#### NALCO RECORD

The public sector National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has set a record by exporting a single consignment of 26113 tonnes of alumina from its captive port facilities at Visakhapatnam.

Valued at Rs. 15 crores, the shipment was despatched on August 14 to the US through Pechiney Trading.

With this, NALCO has completed exports of nearly two lakh tonnes since January 1988. During the period, the company has earned foreign exchange worth Rs. 50 crores from alumina exports. It hopes to touch the figure of Rs. 100 crores by the end of the financial year.

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POLYSILICON PRODUCTION:

#### to be used indigenously Hemlock knowhow

The Centre has made it clear that the cancellation charges and other fees worth Rs. 7.92 crores which was paid to Hemlock Semi-conductor Corporation of the US for polysilicon technolo. gy will not go waste.

In reply to a question in the Lok Sa bha, the Minister of State for Science and Technology and the Department of Electronics, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, said the technical knowhow, process design, standard operating procedures and material requisition documents that India received from Hemlock for the production of polysilicon would be indigenously used for the development of technology, especially electronic grade.

Although the application areas have not yet been worked out and discussions are still on at the highest level, official sources said the Hemlock technology in all probability, would be optimally utilised in the advanced sectors like space and defence purposes.

The country had entered into a deal with Hemlock in 1985 for the development of polysilicon technology along with know-how transfer.

However this led to a long-drawn controversy as certain officials had had failed to assess the indigenous technological developments.

Metkem silicon of Mettur Chemicals had done pioneering work in the field and the technology and product was found to match world standards. The deal with Hemlock was finally cancelled in 1987 to give a pep to domestic know-how at a fractional cost.

However, the Metkem technology is suitable for solar-grade polysilicon which finds applications in photovoltaic

Metkem has a capacity to produce 25 tonnes of polysilicon at present, Another two companies are producing about 15 tonnes. One tonne of polysilicon yields 50,000 of silicon wafers, the final product.

Efforts are on to increase the production capacity by pumping in more investment to meet the domestic demand.

#### MICA PROJECT: SC RULES IN FAVOUR OF MODIS

The Supreme Court has turned down the plea of monochloro acetic acid (MCA) manufacturers that the Modis be restrained from implementing their Rs. 180-lakh MCA project at Alwar In Rajasthan.

Eight MCA manufacturers had objected to the proposal of Modi Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd, to set up a 2,000 tpa plant. Their objections had earlier been turned down by the Monopolias and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC). The Supreme Court, upheld the MRTPC ruling.

The MCA manufacturers objected to the proposal on the ground that a large house like the Modis ought not to enter this field where medium-size and small-scale units are already struggling to sell the product because of stagnant demand. The bulk of MCA is captively consumed, and trading is only in the region of 2,500-3,000 tonnes, according to industry sources.

The existing units together have around 10,000 tonnes of installed capacity. There are four manufacturers in the organised sector and six small-scala units, out of which three are under the sick list and are beneficiaries of Government's nursing schemes. The creation of fresh capacity, therefore, is unjustified, they told the court. Another objection was that the Modis were going in for foreign technology.

The Modis argued that demand for MCA is bound to increase because of the growth in the consumption of MCAbased weedicides, pesticides and other chemicals. Also, MCA had export potential. It attributed the under-utilisation of existing capacity to "inadequate technology."

The company will reportedly pay Rs. 2 crores for purchase of foreign technology. The Regional Research Laboratory of Hyderabad had expressed its inability to provide the technology sought by the Modis and hence the decision to go in for collaboration.

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

# OCIL CLARIFIES ON ALLEGED AX EVASION

National Organic Chemical Industries NOCIL) has in the wake of press reports alleging excise duty evasion by a company clarified in a statement at is has an obligation to supply ethyne to Polyolefin Industries Ltd. (PIL), a sister concern, under an agreement and these supplies are made at the entracted price. It has been filing its rice list with the excise authorities, he agreement incorporates also the rice escalation factor.

NOCIL has further clarified that PIL a bulk customer and has made large westments depending on ethylene suplies from NOCIL. The marginally igher price negotiated with other customers like Polychem is mainly due to be small volume of their offtake and code of delivery, the statement says. IOCIL further says it has not evaded accise duty since it recovers whatever that the polychem is mainly due to be small volume of their offtake and code of delivery, the statement says. IOCIL further says it has not evaded accise duty since it recovers whatever that the polychem is the government from the polychem in turn gets corresponding nodvat credit.

# C ISSUES NOTICE TO

The Supreme Court issued notices the Union Carbide India and its paent organisation in the USA — the Union Carbide Corporation — on a niscellaneous civil petition seeking a tirection to them to disclose all infornation in their possession accumulated during more than 20 years of research on the effect of MIC gas.

The court also issued notice to the Madhya Pradesh government on a pracer in the petition seeking continuation of supply of ration including milk and sugar to the gas victims which was reportedly stopped after 13 months of the 1984 tragedy.

The notices were issued by a division bench comprising chief justice R. S. Pathak, Mr. Justice M. H. Kania and Mr. Justice L. M. Sharma after preliminary argument on the petition.

The petition is an offshoot of a writ petition filed by Dr. Nishit Vohra seeking a direction to the Madhya Pradesh government to provide correct line of treatment to the gas victims and rehabilitate them by providing jobs according to their health status.

The court granted four weeks time to the Union Carbide India and the Union Carbide Corporation of the US to file their replies.

Similarly the Madhya Pradesh government was allowed two weeks to file its reply.

# IS STANDARDS: HDPE WOVEN SACKS FOR PACKING FLOUR

ught out an Indian Standard Specification for High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Woven Sacks for Packing Flour (IS: 12100-1987). It prescribes requirements of two types of HDPE Woven Sacks. Type 1 will be suitable for packing flour in the nominal capacity of 20 kg and 50 kg and Type 2 for packing in the nominal capacity of 5 kg and 10 kg.

There is extensive use of HDPE Woven Sacks for packing flour within the country. It is expected that with the use of the bags conforming to this specification, the wastage of flour during various stages of handling would be prevented considerably.

#### NOTED BIOCHEMIST DEAD

The internationally-known biochemist, Prof. L. K. Ramachandran, died in Hyderabad recently after a brief Illness

He was the former head of the biochemistry department of Osmania University. He was 60..

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#### Laser Technology in Chemistry

A recent issue of Applied Physics (1988, B46, No.3, July, p.197-282) gives highlights of remarkable developments in laser technology with reference to its impact on chemistry. Laser spectroscopic techniques provide new means for a detailed understanding of chemical reactions. New diagnostic techniques allow combustion reactions to be studied. Laser-induced reactions have some unique features and isotope separation is practical: The isomerization of carvone to carvone camphor may be cited as an example.

IR laser spectroscopy allows in situ monitoring of ammonia in power plants for combating nitric oxide. The model indicates that rapid mixing of NH<sub>3</sub> with flue gases is essential to obtain optimal reduction results. The application of planar laser induced fluorescence gives access to a study of turbulence in reactors. Lasers have also been used in genetic engineering.

The laser isotope separation is receiving increasing attention; an early example was 10 BCl<sub>3</sub> and 11 BCl<sub>3</sub>. Carbon isotope separation has been realised. UV laser ablation of polymers may prove to be technologically beneficial. Laser induced reactions at or near surfaces can carry out ingenious modifications of surfaces.

#### Loop Reactors (LR)

Dierendonck et al. have discussed scale-up aspects of LR, which are very useful for conducting a variety of gas-liquid reactions, such as, hydrogenation, chlorination, ethoxylation, etc. Heat transfer problems can be handled easily as the heat exchanger is external to the reactor whose key feature is a well designed venturi. The scale-up is based on a constant power input per unit venturi volume, while the pump capacity is derived from the rule of a constant recirculation time. LR can offer k<sub>L</sub>a values as high as 1 sec-1 and are particularly good for fast reactions operated under pressure. (Paper presented at the 6th European Conference on Mixing, May, 1988, Pavia, Italy; Proceedings, p. 287).

#### A new strategy in extractive distillation

A new solvent, based on the use of aqueous solution of hydrotropes, has been proposed which allows good values of relative volatility to be realised with such close-boiling mixtures as 2,6 xylenol-p-cresol. For acidic mixtures solutions of alkanolamines also act as good solvents (*Sep. Sci. Technol.*, 1988, **23**, 429-436).

# Asymmetric halogenation (AH) and hydrohalogenation of styrene

Sakubara and Ishizaki have studied AH of styrene in microcrystalline cyclodextrin complexes (CDC), both in gas-solid and in aqueous or dimethyl sulfoxide systems. In the case of the gas-solid brominations in the alpha- and beta-CDC (-) -1,2 dibromo-1-phenyl ethane was predominantly produced; the alpha variety gave chiral induction 9 times that of the beta variety. By contrast, brominations in the homogeneous medium containing both alpha- and beta CDC's gave no dibromide but racemic bromohydrin (*J. Inclusion Phenomena*, 1987, 5, 449).

#### Stereospecific epoxidation by air of cholest-5ene (CE) derivatives

Marchon and Ramasseul have shown that a Ru porphyrin catalyst catalyses the epoxidation by air of several CE derivatives in high yield and with nearly complete B-stereo-specificity (*J.C.S.Chem. Commun.*, 1988, 298).

## Ru catalyst for cycloolefin preparation

Sumitomo Chem. Ind. have claimed that partial hydrogenation of aromatic hydrocarbon can be performed with Ru and P oxoacid salts. (Jap. Patent. Appll. 62/142, 126, *Cf Platinum Metals Rev.*, 1988, 32, 103).

# Oxidation of ammonia to nitric oxide—a new thin layer lattice catalyst

A USSR patent claims tht a twin layer lattice catalyst, where lattice-1 contains Pt, Rh and optimally Pd, Ru: and lattice-2 contains Pd, Au, and option-

ally Pt, Rh, Ir, Co and/ or Ag, requires less Pt and at the same time the loss of the noble metal (i.e. Pt) is reduced by 65% with hardly any effect on NH3 conversion (Platinum Metals Rev., 1988, 32, 104).

#### Sorbitol using Ru hydrogenation catalyst

Pfizer have claimed that a two-stage hydrogenation of hydrolysed starch gives complete conversion. Here for the first stage, after acidification, Ru catalyst is used at 100-180°C and 35-140 atm. (U.S.P. 4, 694, 113).

#### Synthetic methods and reactions

Surya Prakash and Olah have given an excellent account of the development of a series of reagents and reactions for organic synthesis based on simple raw materials. The use of nitronium and nitrosonium salts and related reagents as nitrating agents, pyridinium polyhydrogen fluorides as a halogenating agent, solid superacid catalysts for Friedel-Crafts reactions, oninum ion and carbocation salt reagents, etc. is discussed. (*Proc. Indian Acad. Sci. (Chem. Sci.)*, 1988, 100, 143).

#### Liquid phase methanol process

Air Products have put up a pilot plant of 5 tpd capacity where a mineral oil is used with a commercial copper powder catalyst where the product CH<sub>3</sub>OH comes out as vapour. The specific advantage of the liquid phase is that it can operate with H<sub>2</sub>: CO ratio of 0.7:1, unlike the vapour phase process which requires the ratio of 2:1; such a lean gas comes from coal gasification processes. (*Chem. Eng.*, 1988, **95**, No.9 (20 June), p. 27).

# Homogeneous catalysis for agrochemicals, flavors and fragrances

Parshall and Nugent (of Du Pont, U.S.A.) have given a fascinating account of this subject with practically relevant examples. Pyrethroid insecticides — Permethrin — relatively high *cis*- and *trans* ratios are found with dimeric rhodium (II) carboxylate catalysts like those used in the thienamycin synthesis. Some permethric acid derivatives have optical as well as geometric isomers. A lot of work on asymmetric cyclo-propanation catalyst has been done. Pyrethroids based on chrysanthemic acid esters are most active in the naturally occurring *D-trans* form. Homogenous catalysts have been suggested for the

reaction between CCI<sub>4</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub> = CHCOCI (CuCI in acetonitrile medium at 115°C).

Aluminium trianilide is used as a catalyst for ortho ethylation of aniline.

Phenylalanine production has started in Europe by an asymmetric hydrogenation process analogus to the Monsanto process for L-dopa. (*Chemtech.*, 1988, June, 376-383).

#### H<sub>2</sub> O<sub>2</sub>: Technology and business

A recent issue of Chemical Engineering (1988, 95, No.9, 20 June, p.32-37) gives an up-to-date account of contemporary developments in technology and new markets. The recent Du Pont process for the direct reaction between  $H_2^+$  and  $O_2^-$  in an aqueous acidic medium containing Pd/C catalysts appears to be most attractive. Dow and Occidental have an electrolytic process, using a membrane cell, where  $H_2O_2^-$  is produced in an alkaline medium; the efficiency of  $O_2^-$  reduction at cathode is 80-99%.

The use of  $H_2O_2$  is growing rapidly in bleaching of pulp as the process is free from pollution. New applications for environmental protection are: in-situ treatment of contaminated soils, detoxification of cyanide wastes, etc.

# Cyclohexanone oxime (CHO) from cyclohexanone (CH), $NH_3$ , $H_2O_2$

Montedipe's research has developed a new process where a highly selective catalyst allows reaction between CH,  $NH_3$  and  $H_2O_2$  to give CHO. Thus the Co-production of ammonium sulphate can be drastically out. (*ECN*, 1988, 4, July, p. 17).

# Bioconversions of lipophilic substances by encapsulated enzymes (EE)

Biocatalysts (enzymes; microbial cells) have been made resistant to organic solvents through different approaches: chemical, biochemical and genetic. Immobilization of biocatalyst on or in suitable supports appears to be very promising. S.Fukuis group has developed convenient methods for entraping biocatalysts inside gel matrices formed from synthetic pre-polymers. *Nocardia rhodocrous* (cells) have been used in benzene (in heptane)-water system for dehydrogenation of ADD and TS. Stereoselective hydrolysis of *dl*-menthyl ester has

been carried out in heptane - water with Rhototorula minuta (cells), Stereo selective esterification of dl-menthol has been carried out with lipase in cyclohexane-water system. (J. Am. Oil Chem. Soc., 1988, 65, No.1, 96-100).

# Homogeneous Catalyst for CO<sub>2</sub> H<sub>2</sub>, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> NH reaction to DMF

Schreiner et al., have shown that Pt<sub>2</sub> (u dppm)<sub>3</sub> (dppm = Ph<sub>2</sub> PCH<sub>2</sub> PPh<sub>2</sub>) catalyses under unprecedented mild conditions, in a reversible way, the reaction under reference. (*J.C.S. Chem. Commun.*, 1988, p. 602).

# Reaction between Phenol and HCHO: Selectivity through cyclodextrins

M. Komiyama has reported a highly selective synthesis of 4hydroxy-methyl phenol with modified cyclodextrins having hydroxypropyl residues. Para to ortho isomer ratio of 15.7 has been realised. (*J.C.S. Chem. Commun.*, 1988, 651-652).

# Enzymatic oxidation of cholestrol aggregates in supercritical (SC) CO<sub>2</sub>

Blanch, Prausnitz and co-workers have already reported the use of SC CO<sub>2</sub> in conducting enzymatic reactions. Cholestrol oxidase has been found to be active in SC CO<sub>2</sub> and SC CO<sub>2</sub>-co-solvent mixtures. Variations in solvent power caused by pressure changes or by the addition of dopants affected the rate of enzymatic oxidation of cholestrol by altering the structure of cholestrol aggregates. (*Science*, 1988, 239, 22 Jan., 387).

#### Catalytic hydrogenation of triglycerides

It has been claimed that catalysts, containing Cu, Cr, Ba, etc., give on hydrogenation of triglycerides (e.g. coconut oil) high yields of fatty alcohols and 1,2 propanediol. (Ger. Offen. 3,624,812, 1988, *Cf. Chem. Abstr.*, 1988, **108**, 223438).

# Handling of Corrosive Chemicals Plate Heat Exchangers

Alfa-Laval have introduced a new design of PHE where gaskets, which may not be able to withstand highly corrosive and aggresive materials, are replaced by welded construction. Albright and Wilson have used such a construction for an exo-

thermic reaction and this has allowed the batch time to be halved. Hastelloy C276 plates were laserwelded. (*Processing*, 1988, April, p. 13).

#### Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD)

BASF in W. Germany have an FGD unit based on the Wellman-Lord process which uses a GRP contactor, 9.4 m dia. and 35.5m high. Here aqueous sodium sulphite is used as an absorbent; pure SO<sub>2</sub> is obtained as the product. A vinyl ester (of BASF make — PALATAL A 430) is used.

Du Pont fluoroelastomers are also very useful for lining of steel. (*Processing*, 1988, April, p.30).

#### Plastic Heat Exchangers (PLHE)

At Elektromark AG power plant in Hagen, West Germany, a PLHE — made of PTFE, PVDF and perfluoroalkoxy co-polymer, has been found to be absolutely corrosion resistant in an FGD plant. Due to antistick quality of polymer, the fly ash build-up is about 10% of that in a metal HE. (*Chem. Eng.*, 1988, **95**, No.5, May, pp. 17-23).

# Ion Exchange Resin (IER) catalysed reactions Decomposition of tert amyl methyl ether (TAME)

Erdolchemie have claimed that SiO<sub>2</sub> — modified Lewatit SPC 118 strongly acidic IER allows TAME, with water, to be decomposed to methanol and isoamylene (2-methyl-1- and 2-methyl-2-butene) at 363 K at high levels of conversion and yield (Ger. Offen. 3, 610, 704, Oct. 1987, *Cf. Chem. Abstr., 1988,* 108, 186161).

## Tetraisobutylene (TIB) from diisobutylene (DIB)

Erdoochemie have claimed that a macroporous cationic IER with zeolites of 3A allows DIB to be converted to TIB. (Ger. Offen. 3, 612, 443, Oct. 1987, *Cf. Chem. Abstr.*, 1988, **108**, 186162).

# Hydroformylation (oxo/reaction) of vinyl chloride (VC)

Mitsui Toatsu have claimed that VC, with CO and H<sub>2</sub>, gives MeCHCI CHO with rhodium phosphine ligand at 55 Degree and 85 atm pressure. The oxidation of chloroaldehyde gives the corresponding acid which in turn on hydrolysis gives lactic acid

(J.P. 62, 273, 935, Nov. 1987, Cf. Chem. Abstr., 1988, 108, 186169).

# Oxidation of organic compounds with hydroperoxides

Muller and Idmoumaz have shown that RhCl (PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sup>3</sup> and Rh+ (diphos) catalyse oxidations with tert butyl hydroperoxide. Thus anthracene is converted to anthraquinone; 1-phenyl ethanol to acetophenone etc. It is interesting that terminal olefins are converted to the corresponding ketones but the internal olefins are unreactive (*J. Organometallic Chem.*, 1988, **345**, 187).

#### Oxidation of unsaturated fatty acids (UFA)

Zaldman et al. have shown that RuCl<sub>3</sub> catalysed sodium hypochlorite oxidation in a two-phase, emulsified, system gives high yields of azeleic and pelargonic acids. Emulsification helps in improving rates. Azeleic acid can be recovered by extraction with hot water and subsequent crystallization (*J. Am. Oil. Chem. Soc.* 1988, 65, No.4, 611).

#### Thermoplastic Elastomers (TPE)

TPE continue to attract world-wide attention and show good growth. For automobiles and other applications TPE offer tremendous economic advantage over the traditional multistep thermoset rubber process. TPE offer a unique opportunity for design flexibility in automotive applications. Prime examples of some of the growth areas for thermoplastic olefins are flexible covers and sight shields. The new TPE alloys are gaining importance. (Wright, M.A., et al., Chemtech., 1988, June, p. 354).

#### A novel absorbent for nitrogen

Japan Oxygen Co. have claimed that (Fe H (dppe)2-) + Y-where Y = BPh<sub>4</sub>- or  $CIO_4$ , and acetone or pyridine or ammonia or PhCN or MeCN, reversibly absorbs nitrogen. Thus pure nitrogen and enriched oxygen can be simultaneously produced (JP 6342, 717, Feb. 1988, *Cf. Chem. Abstr.*, 1988, **109**, 8921).

#### Transesterification of fats

KaO Corpn. has claimed that molten fats (e.g. Palm Oil) can be transesterified (e.g. with stearic acid), without a solvent, in the presence of thermally stable

lipase at 60°C. (E.P. Appl. 257, 388, *Cf. Chem. Abstr.*, 1988, **109**, 8381).

# Alkoxylated esters from alcohols and unsaturated esters

Union Carbide have claimed tht (for instance) ethanol reacts with ethyl acrylate, in the presence of a strongly basic ion exchange resin DOWEX-MSA-1, to give Et-3-ethoxy propionate (E.P. Appl. 254, 291, *Cf. Chem. Abstr.*, 1988, **109**, 8399).

# Effect of surface roughness on solid-liquid mass transfer coefficient

Van Vliet and Young have studied the effect of surface roughness on the value of the external mass transfer coefficient and have found a profound effect; the enhancement factor appears to be as high as 8 in some cases. Any surface roughness which is significantly smaller than the diffusion film thickness is unlikely to have an effect. The surface roughness can be studied through the concept of fractal dimension. Mass transfer was carried out through absorption of species like phenol p-chlorophenol/dodecyl benzene sulphonates with adsorbent like activated carbon, polymeric materials, etc. (Chem. Eng. Comm., 1988, 69, 81-94).

# 4A Zeolites from calcined kaolins for use in detergents

Costa et al. have shown that 4A zeolite can be made by calcination of Kaolins. Experiments were carried out in 1 liter and a pliot plant 50 liter reactors; gels were prepared by dissolving pretreated Kaolins in an NaOH solution. After ageing the gels were heated to the desired crystallisation conditions. At a capacity of 30,000 tpa the cost of production under conditions in Spain, works out to be \$0.43/Kg. (Ind. Eng. Chem. Res. 1988, 27, 1291).

# Catalytic membrane for simultaneous reaction and separation: Dehydrogenation reaction

Sun and Khang have shown that a vycor glass membrane reactor, impregnated with a Pt catalyst, can be successfully used for a dehydrogenation reaction — cyclohexane to benzene. Here the permeation of the product allows conversion to exceed equilibrium conversions under conditions when product(s) is (are) not removed. Strong internal mass transfer resistance exists in this reactor (*Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.*, 1988, **27**, 1136).

# IBRD cautions ONGC on output levels

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has recorded significant increases in productivity in all areas of its operation over the period 1980-81 to 1987-88. Yet the World Bank has warned that it may be difficult to maintain production levels because the rate of exploitation has been greater than the rate of discovery of fresh oilfields.

ONGC sources argue "that a slight overstrain on the system yields better results than a ming for lower targets '. But the World Bank maintains that In dia's energy-wasteful strategy of deve lopment is running out of the domestic petroleum necessary to sustain it.

The Bank's just published confidential report for 1988 notes critically that energy use has grown faster than gross domestic product (GDP) by a factor of 1.2 to 1.5.

"Discoveries of oil reserves have not kept pace with the increase in domestic oil production in the last few years. The Bombay High Oilfield, which accounts for about 70 per cent of India's domestic oil production, has now reached a production plateau. In the years ahead, its production is likely to decline. Crudo oil production has virtually stagnated since 1985", says the report.

According to ONGC sources, oil production per employee increased from 327 tonnes in 1980-81 to 644 tonnes in 1987-88, registering a 97 per cent increase. The leap in productivity reflected in the gas sales per employee was even greater, showing a 293 per cent increase.

But the greatest increase in productivity is evident in the figure for the production of LPG. During this period LPG productivity registered a 356 per cent increase.

Drilling performance, expressed in metres/rig months, is termed "cycla speed". During the period 1980-81 to 1987-88, the cycle speed increased from 475 to 675 metres/rig months.

Gains in productivity are reflected in the financial performance of the or. ganisation. The profit after tax has swollen from a mere Rs. 46.57 crores during 1980-81 to Rs. 1,505 crores in 1987-88.

#### ONGC COPTER PLUNGES INTO BAY

A helicopter chartered by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) with ten people aboard, reported missing at sea has crashed into the Bay of Bengal, an ONGC spokesperson said on August 13,

The fate of the two pilots and sight passengers is not known,

A massive search for them has been launched by Indian Navy ships, Air Force aircraft, the Coast Guard and ONGC supply vessels.

An Indian mavy ship on the search and rescue mission found the debris of the halicopter about 16 km east of Pondicherry, a navy spokesman said in New Delhi.

Ho said the ship had spotted one lifo raft, two seats and other pieces of wreckage of the aircraft, which was chartered from the Pawan Hans Corperation and was on offshore duty for

The Dauphin helicopter which had taken off from Madras on Aug. 12. made several trips to the 'Badrinath' platform and the ONGC drilling ship 'Sagar Prabhat."

Soon after it took off from 'Sagar Prabhat' around 1500 hrs, on Aug. 12, the ONGC rad o base at Madras lost contact with the sircraft, the ONGC spokesparson said.

Apart from the two pilots, the eight people on board were employees of Scan Drilling Company, Flow Petrol. Schlumberger, Fairmax Catering Service and Interads -- hired by ONGC for its offshore operations, he said.

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#### Petrochem prices stabilise

Petrochemical prices, which have been on the ascendant for years, have now peaked and olateaued.

Industry sources attribute the development to consumer resistance. Also, ethylene supply is easing as explosion-hit plants in the US and Europe are being reactivated. Japan has de mothballed its old plants, effecting a marginal increase in supply.

Though prices of all ethylene derivatives have peaked and a reversal is evident, a steep fall in prices is most likely and prices of petrochemicals are expected to stabilise in the region of \$ 1,200-1,400, industry souces

Monoethylene glycol (MEG) prices the most volatile of all petrochemicals, had touched \$ 1,900 a few months ago. It has now stabilised at around \$ 1,750. Contract supplies are even today being effected at \$ 1,250.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which had peaked to \$ 1,320 per tonne, has now come down to \$ 1,280. Low density polyethylene (LDPE), quoted at \$ 1,-585, is now available at less than \$ 1,500 a tonne. High density polyethylene (HDPE) has fallen from \$ 1,650 further. to \$ 1,400 and is dropping Even ethylene, which is no longer traded in the international market, is expected to be available by 1990.

In erecting new petrochemical complexes, the trend abroad now is to serve the needs of the country, and not the export market. This is said to be because of the uncertainty over the continuance of long-term export markets. "The rule of thumb is that investment for export are justified only if there is an assured market which could fetch 30 per cent more than the domestic prices," an industry source sald.

As summer is tapering off, demand for gasoline in the Western world is declining. Crude prices have dropped to \$ 13 a barrel. The downtrend is expected to continue as both Iran and Iraq will pump as much oil as possible in their endeavour to rebuild their warshattered economies.

Industry sources welcomed the Government's decision to allow one and all to purchase polymers from the world market, for actual use or sale, "Ir-CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T

respective of the reason which may have prompted the Government to take this decision, it is in the country's interest. India should take this opportunity to maximise its purchase of crude as well as petrochemicals," industry source commented

RPL GETS NOC FROM GUJARAT POLLUTION BOARD

The Gujarat Pollution Control Board gave a no-objection certificate (NOC) in January 1987 to Reliance Petrochem in Hazira for three projects. They are the HDPE and PVC plants and the setting up of a captive power unit. The board has no objection only from the pollution point of view and no other.

Reliance has yet to get clearance from the environmental appraisal committee of the ministry of environment, Central government, where all environmental questions pertaining to the project are to be discussed. Incidentally, this committee meets every month but the Reliance discussion has not been scheduled so far. The Gujarat Pollution Control Board is also a party to the committee's discussion if the project concerned is in Guiarat,

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# Vatural gas discovered in western Rajasthan

Oil India Limited announced its first rajor discovery of hydrocarbons in ajasthan where it started looking for oil and gas some three years ago. The rest exploratory well drilled by the OIL echnicians at Tanot, 115 km northwest of Jaisalmer, has yielded gas accumulations. The hydrocarbon content, including methane and significant amounts of ethane, propane and butane, in the produced gas is about 67 per cent.

The Tanot well, first in a series of six wells to be drilled in western Rajasthan by the OIL before March 1990, was spudded on March 8 and reached its planned depth of 3,513 metres on July 1. Production testing began 15 days later after detailed down-hole surveys and cementation of casing pipes.

During production testing of a promising zone at a depth of 1,950 metres, the rate of flow was a steady 16,000 standard cubic metres (1.6 million standard cubic feet) a day through a six mm beam. Its flowing pressure on the surface was 1,210 pounds a square inch (87 kg/sq. cm). The open flow potential is estimated at over 100,000 standard cubic metres (five million standard cubic feet) a day.

#### **Optimistic**

The geological reserves of the gas struck in well No. 1 at Tanot are estimated at one billion standard cubic metres (35 billion standard cubic feet). The OIL experts are optimistic that drilling in the adjacent structures might lead to the discovery of larger quantities of gas in the Tanot area.

It was in 1935-86 that the OIL carried out the first intensive seismic survey using the vibrosis technique along 8,100 km line covering the entire petroleum exploration area of 28,600 sq. kms licensed to it in Rajasthan. The data was processed at a computer centre set up at Jodhpur.

A comprehensive analysis and interpretation of the data together with the available geological information by three different groups headed by reputed geo-scientists has led to the identification of six drilling targets. The

OIL has retained 10,000 sq km of the area licensed to it for exploring hydro-oarbons.

After Tanot, the second exploratory well would be drilled near Ramgarh, about 80 km from well No. 1. The second well is expected to be spudded later this month.

The sanctioned expenditure on the drilling phase is about Rs. 51 crores, which the OIL hopes to utilise during the Seventh Plan period. The cost of the survey phase of the project completed earlier has been Rs. 31 crores, The foreign exchange component of th OIL's Rajasthan project is being funded through a World Bank lean. The tentative allocation is \$25 millions (about Rs. 33 crores).

# HALDIA PETROCHEM PROJECT COST SOARS

The cost of the Haldia petrochemicals project, which has been dogged by delays in decision-making, has escalated to Rs. 2,000 crores.

This information was given by the Union Industry Ministry, Mr. J. Vengal Rao, while replying to supplementaries on a question on polymer imports raised in the Lok Sabha by Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhury.

Mr. Vengal Rao said all the clearances needed to be obtained from his Ministry have been given and the project promoters need to get other financial approvals.

In reply to the main question, the Minister admitted that there would be sher fall in the demand and availability of polymers in the country beyond 1990. According to him, the shortfall in 1990-91 would be 368,000 tonnes as the production would be 490,000 tonnes against a demand of 858,000 tonnes.

The Minister also assured the member that steps are being taken to expedite the setting up of new petrochem projects in the country.



## ONGC output may exceed target

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission is likely to achieve production of nearly 144 million tonnes against the original target of about 143 million tonnes during the Seventh Plan, ONGC sources say that this estimate is based on the achievement of targets in the first three years of the Seventh Plant which has been cumulative 82.1 miltion tonnes against which ONGC achieved 83.28 million tonnes.

Col. S. P. Wahi, chairman, ONGC, said that the increase in production was largely due to the new oil and gas discoveries, accelerated build-up in reserves, Innovative strategies adopted for putting these discoveries into production through the early production systems and enhanced oil recovery scheme.

He said that a notable feature of the Seventh Plan had been a build up in the geological reserves which is also a reflection of the intensification of its exploratory activity during the Seventh Plan. As against a target of 970 MMT reserve accretion during the plan pe-

riod already 823 MMT of oil and oil equivalent of gas had been added in the first 3 years of the Seventh Plan (1985-88).

ONGC is reviewing its targets for the Eighth Plan, keeping in view the large number of discoveries, made in the recent past, both onland end offshore. As par the existing plan, the cumulative production for the Eighth Plan is expected to be about 280.7 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas.

The all round gains in productivity is amply reflected in the Impeccable financial performance of the organisation. The profit after tax has swollen from a mere Rs. 48.57 crores during 1980-81 to Rs. 1505 crores in 1987-

With the government equity remaining at the level of Rs. 432.85 crores since 1981, the financial resources for devi-pment and growth year after year have been primarily met through internal resources generation and commercial borrowings. The total internal 

resources generation during 1987-88 has been Rs. 2209.45 crores which is 107 per cent of the plan expendi-

Reacting to the charge of "indiffer. ence" towards indigenisation of equipment Col, Wahi said that a large number of capital items were already being manufactured and supplied by the companies in the public and private sector to ONGC.

In fact, ne said, it was estimated that the domestic industry was today supplying more than 50 per cant of the oil sector's requirement of equipment and materials like rigs, offshore platforms, offshore supply vessels, casing pipes, oil field chemicals and cement,

Mazagaon Dock Limited has so far fabricated 30 offshore platforms for ONGC and 34 cnland rigs have been supplied by BHEL. Likewise, 18 offshore supply vessels in operation for ONGC have been manufactured by Indian yards. BPCL and PIL are currently engaged in executing 46 cement units for ONGC.

Services worth Rs. 309,52 crores were indigenised during the year 1986-87, compared to the figure of 1984-86. when services worth Rs. 276.32 crores were indigenised.

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#### 4 FLOAT GLASS UNITS PLANNED

The Union Minister of State for Industries, Mr. M. Arunachalam, said recently that it was proposed to start four float glass industries at a cost of Rs. 200 crores each.

Two industrial units, including Tamil Nadu Indus'rial Development Corporation (TIDCO) had applied for licences, he told newsmen in Madural.

Mr. Arunachalam said 1640 sick units had been revived in Tamil Nadu since the President's rule came into effect.

Mr. Arunachalam said 100 district industrial growth centres at a cost of Rs. 2,500 crores would be set up in the country!

Talking about the Government's efforts to accelerate the industrial growth in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Arunachalam said till the end of 1987, 122 letters of intent were given by the Centre for se'ting up industries. It worked out to 12.3 per cent of the total share of such letters of intent extended all over the country.

# Plan panel stress on natural gas use

ne Planning Commission has emsised the need for taking expedis decisions on use of natural gas power generation, increasing ays in the States' sector and amlining of the approval system to t the anticipated shortage of power he Eighth Plan.

his follows a recent exercise carout by the Commission which has wn that the electricity generation irements will be 524 billion units a Eighth Plan GDP growth rate of en per cent, 480 billion units for a wth rate of six per cent and 460 on units for a growth rate of 5.5 cent.

A more detailed exercise on the baof a GDP growth rate of six per t has indicated that after taking out expected generation of about 25 bilunits from captive power, the geation requirements from public uties will be about 455 billion units. gainst this, the gross generation, er an addition of 38,000 mw capaduring the Eighth Plan, is estima-

at about 410 billion units. The Commission feels that it possible to step up this generation about 450 billion units provided a e-bound action plan is taken up for roving the performance and producty of the existing units, operation the power system and reduction of time required for bringing the new ts to full load operation.

The small overall gap between dend and availability may be met by ing power from Chukha and through er measures though there may still gaps in centain regions.

-lowever, to meet the peaking rerements, a capacity of over 4,000 will be required in addition to 000 mw for the six-per cent growth .. This does not seem to be in ht and it is presumed that the peakshortage will continue.

The Commission, therefore, ; a capacity of 38,000 mw is the rimum required for the Eighth Plan, far, a capacity of 22,345 mw has n approved for the Eighth Plan.

lowever, out of this, only 19,385 capacity is under implementation present. A capacity of 2,570 mw neld up due to forest and environntal clearance and another 390 mw want of delays in foreign tie-ups,

The rest of the capacity of 15,800 is yet to be approved due to vais reasons. A capacity of 8,700 mw is awaiting forest and environmental clearance and 2,000 mw, the Public Investment Board's and Cabinet Committee's approval. Another \$00 mw capacity is held up due to fund constraints, 700 mw due to inter-State disputes while 3,400 mw capacity projects are still under formulation.

The Commission also feels that several projects are likely to slip over to the last year of the Eighth Plan or to the start of the Ninth Plan because of the long gestation period involved.

As such, the Commission has stress. ed it is important that short gestation period projects, which could be based on natural gas are taken up immediataly. Already 2,400 mw of gas-based power projects are under formulation, In addition, the Commission has found that about 4,000 mw capacity power plants could be set up, based on the natural gas available in "Hazira, Gandhar, Tripura, Assam and Krishna-Godavar!.

However, the Commission has point ed out that it is necessary to take a policy decision on utilisation of natural gas for power right now so that these projects could be taken up within the next six to 12 months. Such a decision will ensure that the new capacity of ,....,

38,000 mw envisaged for the Lis-Plan comes up and the possible slippages to the tune of 1,600 mw are also taken care of by the gas-based power projects.

Regarding the funding of the power projects which are to materialise during the Eighth Plan, the Commission feels that there is not much problem in case of Central sector projects as only a small increase in the net budgetary support would be required next year after utilising external assistance and market borrowings.

In case of the States, however, an increase of Rs. 1,261 crores is required in the Seventh Plan outlay. This would require larger institutional funding and allocation by States of a larger percentage of their Plan outlays to the power sector.

As such, the Power Finance Corporation, may have to be allowed higher equity to have a larger borrowing pro-

The Commission also feels that It would be necessary to take measures for streamlining the various other approval systems connected with the implementation of power projects, their implementation and management power systems operations. These measures, along with a decision on pending projects would be necessary to ensure that full benefits are realised in the Eighth Plan.

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# New energy policy debate

The role of hydrocarbons in the new energy policy, productivity achieved by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the programme of indigenisation of equipment by the industry are the three areas around which most of the controversies or debates take place reports Kumar Ketkar in The Economic Times:

The debate became particularly sharper with more and more gas discoveries and large scale flaring of gas. Whether gas should be used for petrochemicals (including fertiliser) or for power was one major aspect of the debate. The second related to the question of productivity vis-a-vis prognosticated reserves. Just as the ONGC's activities were expanding, the public and private sector industry began to raise questions concerning indigenisation. They legitimately feared that the worldwide slump in the international equipment market, the local units would be sidelined and the ONGC would go for massive import.

The debate is unlikely to be resolved easily.

Ever since the first oil crisis in the

mid-seventies, the basic tenet of India's energy policy had been to treat coal as a primary source of energy. The first natural reaction was to substitute coal for other fuels wherever possible. Since this policy was pursued for the power generation sector also, the share of coal as a primary source of energy increased.

But during the last seven years perceptions began to change rapidly, mainly because the ONGC suceeded in increasing the oil production three-fold, from 9.21 million tonnes to 27.91 million tonnes. The gas production increased from 970 million cubic metres to nearly 6,000 million cubic metres, i.e. more than six times.

According to a report prepared by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, the new energy policy has to mean moving towards utilisation of hydrocarbons as a source of energy in the power generation. According to BICP, this will not only reduce costs but also will require much less capital resources in the coming plans for creating additional capacities in the power sector and also in the transportation

sector. The BICP report says that the source could be fuel oil, natural gas, domestic or imported.

It is at this point that the debate on "options" has become sharp. Should India continue to import, particularly when the oil experts fear sharp rise in oil prices again. Wouldn't proper utilisation of the hyrdocarbon resources limit the import? Hadn't India declared its objective of near-self-sufficiency by the end of the century?

The BICP study argues that India will have to be substantially dependent on imports of hydrocarbons for several years to come. Naturally, the consumer price for hydrocarbons will have to be based on import parity price reflecting the special costs of imports. These prices will also define the limits for the domestic coal prices at producer as well as consumer level. Which means, if the new energy policy as recommended by BICP is accepted, the CIL will have to be given full freedom to price its output, instead of administering the price.

In other words, the BICP is suggesting going away from the present administered price scheme in the coal sector to a "regime of efficiency prices that encourages optimum inter-fuel substitution while minimising the total energy supply costs to the economy."

According to BICP the direct import content in the domestically produced coal has been increasing over the time. Consequently, the net direct import requirement of the energy sector due to the proposed New Energy Policy will be lower than what the gross imports indicate. If one takes into account supplies which the New Energy Policy would achieve, then even these net energy imports may further decline even if we take into account direct foreign exchange balance in the energy sector.

Additionally, the BICP argues that if one takes into account the import replacement effects through the better performance of energy sector, there is little doubt that the New Energy Policy would only further improve the net balance of payment position.

The strategic advantage of the New Energy Policy, according to the BICP is that it would create an all-India gas distribution infrastructure in the economy which will enable India to expedite exploitation of natural gas reserves.

It will also enable creation of new capacities in power generation sector within a minimum partition.

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The Study further reveals that there s a technological gap in the producion of butyl rubber and therefore the know-how for outyl rubber is required o be developed indigenously in addiion to the upgradation and modernisaion of the existing production route of SBR. The report titled 'Rubber Rubber Goods Industry in India' represents indepth study and covers all essential aspects of rubber and rubber goods industry including present installed capacity, production, import and export, import and export policy, status of technology, foreign collaborations approved, list of identing agents, world buyers, status of rubber machineary and list of machinery manufacturears, consultants offering consultancy eservices for rubber and agents offering know-how, availability of raw ma-Iterials, market price of rubber, the list of rubber and goods manufacturers and above all twenty project briefs on rubber goods items.

The Report is available from Industrial Extension Bureau, Nanalal Chambers, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380-009. The publication is priced at Rs. 550/- per copy inclusive of packing and forwarding charges payable through crossed chaque/Demand Draft dra-

wn in favour of industrial Extension Bureau.

# CALL TO WAIVE IMPORT DUTY ON RUBBER

The All-India Rubber Industries Association has called upon the Government to maintain the release price of imported rubber by STC at Rs. 17,000 per tonne by waiving the customs duty of 35 per cent or, if needed, by providing a subsidy. In a statement on Aug. 12, the association has questioned the decision of STC to raise the price of RMA-4 grade rubber by Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 19,000 a tonne (ex-Madras).

In doing so, it said, the corporation has violated the sanctity of the buffer stock scheme introduced in 1986 to stabilise the supply and price of natural rubber for the benefit of both the growers and the consumers.

The association is critical of STC messing up the release programme. According to it, the suspension of rubber release by the corporation on June 24 has led to a flare-up in local market prices to Rs. 19,250. The suspension came after STC had distributed only 23,000 tennes against an authorisation to sell 30,000 tennes. STC has no mandate to link the release price with the domestic market prices, the association contends.

In the circumstances, the only way to regulate the market is to waive the import duty on natural rubber currently pegged at 35 per cent.

The Government, it is pointed out, has already collected about Rs. 54 crores as import duty on natural rube ber over the last three years. If the cost of imported rubber happens to be high even after waiving the duty as suggested, the Government should neutralise the increase by way of a subsidy drawn from the funds built up by the customs duty already collected.

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# India may face aluminium shortage

ndia may face a shortage of ab50,000 tonnes of aluminium meduring the current fiscal year
88-89) as against the "misplaced
imism" of sulplus stock by the
ion government. Domestic alunium user industries feel, taking
o consideration the recent proction trends, crippled further by
technical troubles in Nalco and
wer famine faced by the smelters
the southern region, an estimal or even marginal surplus is unnable.

The government's pronounceent of anticipated indigenous mesurplus within the current fisand concurrent provision to alv imports under Open General cence (OGL) by actual users at ncessional customs duty coupled th talks of price decontrol have ffled the users, industry in geneand the units in small scale ctor in particular because e already claimed to be on the rge of closure for want of eterial.

Viewing the country's present alninium scenario a pipuant Eastern Aluminium Rollers and bricators Association (EARFA) s urged the Union steel and mines nister, Mr. M.L. Fotedar to untake for meticulous planning and ategy for maintaining and regulag the supply of metal to the user lustry. The association submitted memorandum to the minister rently, elaborating various aspects the demand and supply situation. The EARFA pointed out that small ile utensil manufacturers had ffered a lot due to irregular and ratic supply of metal for the past veral years. The W.B. state own-Balco had suspended all allocaens to SSI units since March this nr. Indal and Nalco continued to ce acute power shortage and shutwns. With Nalco suffering certain hnical problems. metal availabilihas become erratic and substan-Illy reduced. In the circumstances, call scale units, numbering about 00 all over the country had been orse affected and were perplexed. lese units were, in fact, finding it ficult to maintain their operation. e current total requirement of mmercial grade aluminium ingot utensil manufacturers amounted about 60,000 tonnes per annum. Against this background, EARFA ged Mr. Fotedar not to decontrol uminium prices at this juncture.

ch a move should be prudent only

should there be an actual physical surplus of metal production rather than on the basis of a marginal anticiated surplus during the current year. In its memorandum, it stated that once the price control was removed, the primary aluminium producers would take full advantage of the current scarcity conditions.

The association suggested that administrative pool prices could be a viable alternative now to costly aluminium imports. The high cost of imported aluminium could be well spread over domestic availability under the pool price system. Another viable alternative, it suggested, could be waiver of all duties on aluminium and aluminium scrap imports by actual users. This was suggested because scrap was cheaper in the international market.

# PLEA TO REDUCE IMPORT DUTY ON ZINC, NICKEL

The non-ferrous metal user industry is facing several problems due to the escalating prices of almost all metals such as aluminium, zinc, nickel and tin and the near scarcity of aluminium.

The Bombay Metal Exchange pre-

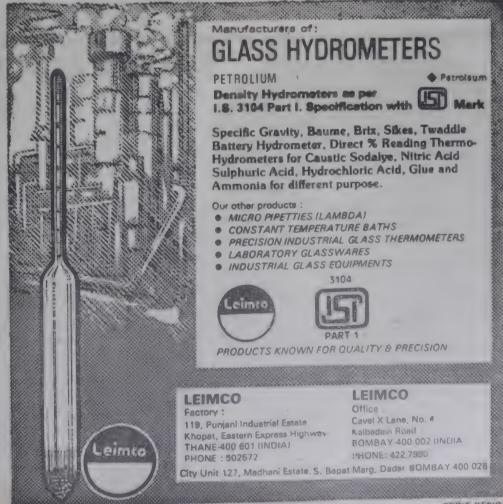
sident Sevantibhai Morakhia addressing a press conference organised by the metals associations said that the government should provide relief measures to the worst affected metals such as zinc and nickel.

The government should reduce the customs duty on zinc and nickel as in the case of copper, he said

Indian Non-ferrous Metals Manufacturers Association president Balkrishna Binani said the supply of aluminium is scarce particularly during April and June mainly due to a decline in production as a result of power shortage.

Moreover, last year's unserviced demands and backlog also have to be covered during this quarter. The requirements of user industries will have to be, therefore, adequately taken care of by planning imports in such a way that the industries would not face any shortages.

The vital but unknown factor in this year's projection of metal availability would be the production by National Aluminium Company (NALCO). Therefore, a very close monitoring of production performance (especially of Nalco) is required and any deviation chould be made by adjusting the imports, Mr. Binani added.



## Big houses must meet own forex needs: Vengal Rao

The Government has asked big industrial houses to generate their own foreign exchange to finance

Making this declaration at a workshop organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Assocham) the Union Minister of Industry, Mr. J. Vengal Rao said, "Industry will have to step up its exports efforts to meet their foreign exchange needs".

Mr. Rao further observed that the industry needed to be more competitive in view of the dismantling of regulations. Quality and therefore, would have to be the keywords for growth, he said.

Minister, however, that more facilities for houses are in the offing to help big houses play a better role in industrialisation. MRTP houses had not been left out of the Government's liberalisation plans, he said.

In this regard he stated that 50 more industries had been added in the list of delicensed industries for MRTP companies in October, 1987.

while a scheme had been announced for maximisation of production during the Seventh Plan in April, this

The Minister further observed that the Government's expectations looked at the big houses for getting the latest technology into the country play a role in building a dynamic industrial base.

Mr. Rao also observed that the industry needed to play a bigger role in ensuring a higher income for the rural populace as a part of an integrated strategy for promoting economic development of the country.

Mr. Rao stressed the need for developing the component integrating the small-scale with the large sector. He said this deserved serious attention on part of the industry. He cited the example of Japan in the overall integration achieved between various sec-

The Minister also urged the industry to generate industrial raw materials in view of the rising international prices. The country has also to be on the lookout for the la test technology so that the sumption of raw materials per uni of output is reduced he added. Ir he said, there is a this regard. view that the domestic industries use more raw materials per unit of output than industries other advanced countries.

Mr. Rao expressed his satisfaction at the suggestion that a 12 per cent or more growth target in the manufacturing sector could be achieved during the next decade.

Earlier, the Assocham President Mr. L.M. Thapar, urged the Government to accelerate the process of liberation in such a manner that MRTP houses and FERA companies, which account for a bulk of the investment are freed from the restricted aspect of existing legislation. "Our licensing laws should not hold down size nor procedures limit exports", he said.

The Chairman of Assocham's Industry Committee, Mr. G.H. Singhania, said the export sector would have to play a far more dynamic role to sustain the imports required for higher growth and for servicing earlier debts.



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# Thrust on exports to narrow deficit

the Planning Commission has callfor effective measures for increaexports and containing the curaccount deficit during the thth Plan.

The Commission has projected at with net invisible earnings of bund Rs. 4,000 crores a year and at current account deficit (which huld correspond roughly to the bital inflow from abroad) of 1.5 ar cent to two per cent of GDP, annual rate of growth of imports annual rate of growth of a GDP bowth rate of 5.5 per cent.

For achieving a GDP growth rate six per cent, the projected annual te of growth of imports is 10.8 r cent. The import growth rate ll increase to 12.6 per cent annuy for a GDP growth rate of seven r cent.

The derived annual rate of growof exports has been put at about
5 per cent for a GDP growth rate
5.5 per cent, 15.6 per cent for a
DP growth rate of six per cent
d 17.8 per cent for a GDP growth
te of seven per cent.

The commission has noted that if the foreign capital inflows are set two per cent of GDP, the about amount of such flows would around Rs. 50,000 crores over five ars. The corresponding figure if flows are set at 1.5 per cent of DP will be around Rs. 37,000 cro-

The feasibility and sustainability inflows of this order will need be established, the Commission s said.

The Commission has pointed out at in making these estimates, it is assumed the import elasticity at B per cent on the basis of the past ata. However, a shift away from the import substituting sector would and to raise the import bill furtier. Exports at the margin would also tend to be more import-intentive.

The growing dependence on imports for meeting domestic petroum requirements would tend to crease the import bill.

The required rates of growth of aports even for a 5.5 per cent GDP rowth are highly relative to actual thievements in the past. As such etailed exercises on export possibilities and import savings will be equired to contain the balance of syments problems that could arise

in the course of the Eighth Plan, the Commission has said.

The Commission has found that the scope for increasing exports of traditional commodities like tea, coffee, unmanufactured tobacco, cashew kernels, iron ore, etc. will, be somewhat smaller in the Eighth Plan.

Larger increases will be possible in respect of non-traditional commodities like processed foods, marine products, readymade garments, leather and leather manufactures, chemicals and allied products, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, including electronics and computer software, and project and consultancy services.

A preliminary assessment of export prospects for thrust commodities made by the Commission has indicated the possibility of a growth in volume by about eight per cent a year on a sustained basis during the Eighth Plan.

This would require an annual average volume growth of over 10 per cent a year in the value of exports from selected seven non-traditional export commodities.

Further, a volume increase of around five per cent in export earnings from all other items would be needed during the Eighth Plan.

The Commission has, therefore, suggested several measures for increasing exports. These include selected imports of machinery for upgradation of technology and other additional imports required for promotion of exports, increased imports of uncut diamonds, liberal imports of hides and skins for leather exports and supply of raw materials to export industries at international prices.

# EXPORTS: CONCERN OVER FALL IN INDIA'S SHARE

Recent liberalisations by the Unlon Government are an inevitable
response to the stage of development attained by the Country's economy, said Mr. R.N. Malhotra, Governor of the Reserve Bank, addressing a United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP) organised meeting with the Federation of Indian
Export Organisations (FIEO).

The conclusions of the several recent UNDP meetings with Indian organisations including the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(BCCI) were discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Malhotra said that liberalisations cannot be reversed because the economy is so complex that it cannot be subjected to detailed regulations. Nobody really has all the answers, he claimed. A lot more has to be left to people who are in the field of production, exports and business.

The RBI Governor noted that India's share of world's exports had declined over the years. He lamented that the contribution of large industry which used up a great deal of foreign exchange had been weak.

Mr. Gamil Hamby, UNDP resident representative, noted that the purpose of these seminars of India organisation is to work out a strategy for direct UNDP assistance to the Indian private sector. He noted that India got the second largest grant from UNDP, next only to China. Yet India is also the largest donor to the programme of any developing country, giving \$7.5 million in foreign exchange, and providing critical technical expertise for UNDP programmes.

Mr. Ramu Deora, President, FI-EO, made recommendations concerning export packing credit advance, and suggested that units exporting more than 50 per cent of their production be given special credits. He asked RBI to ensure that operational officers understand certain new liberalisations.

Mr. Deora also wanted the prescribed limit of assessment and investments for small-scale industries be raised from Rs. 35 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore.

#### 1987-88 EXCISE REALISATION RS. 16,633 CR.

The revenue realisation from Central Excise duties during 1987-88 has been provisionally put at Rs. 16,633 crores, the Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja said in the Lok Sabha recently.

The figures for 1985-86 and 1986-87 were Rs. 12,956 crores and Rs. 14,470 crores, respectively. The realisation during 1987-88 was 1.14 per cent less than the Budget estimate, he said in a written reply.

During 1987-88, the revenue realisation from Customs duties were provisionally put at Rs. 13,636 crores. It was Rs. 9.526 crores in 1985-86 and Rs. 11,475 crores in 1986-87,

# Metals import bill to go up Rs. 400 crores

The import bill for canalised nonferrous metals for 1988-89 would be higher by Rs. 400 crores over 1987-88.

The bill is expected to be around Rs. 1,200 crores for the current financial year against Rs. 1,000 crores last year. However, the 1987-88 bill includes Rs. 160 crores for import of 60,000 tonnes of aluminium, which has now been put on open general licence (OGL).

The steep jump in the import bill is attributed mainly to rise in prices of non-ferrous metals in the international market and partly to increase in quantity to be imported.

During the year, about 80,000 tonnes of copper is estimated to be imported at a cost of over Rs. 600 crores against 75,000 tonnes imported for about Rs. 450 crores in 1987-88, thereby, showing an increase of about 28 per cent in the international prices.

A substantial increase in quantity of zinc to be imported is also expected. As against last year when 65000 tonnes were imported, in 1988-99 it is expected to go up by 10,000 tonnes to 75,000 tonnes.

Value - wise, Rs. 225 crores have been earmarked for import of 75,000 tonnes. Last year, Rs. 200 crores was spent for imports.

During the first four months of the current year, 19,804 tonnes of copper valued at Rs. 131.79 crores has already been imported against 21,828 tonnes valued at Rs. 105.89 crores imported during the same period last year.

A close loow at the figures clearly, indicate the marked rise in international prices.

Similarly about 20,341 tonnes of high-grade zinc has been imported valued at Rs. 75.81 crores during April-July period against 12,254 tonnes valued at Rs. 37.30 crores during the same period of last year, thereby, indicating 18 per cent rise in prices.

However, in the case of lead the picture almost remains the same. This year about Rs. 40 crores has been earmarked to import about

24,000 tonnes which corresponds to the figures of last year.

But, for the four months period the figures available here indicate the rise in international price for this metal also. For instance, during the first four months of this year about 9,111 tonnes of 99.97 per centlead valued at Rs. 20.34 crores has been imported against imports of 10,275 tonnes for Rs. 16.73 crores during the same period last year, thereby, showing a phenomenal rise of 26 per cent in the international prices.

However, according to official sources, the rates of non-ferrous metals in the international market fluctuate frequently. Hence it is too soon to estimate the prices until the dea is finally struck.

Also the estimates of the total imports are on conservative basis and do not fully take into account the expected fluctuations in the inernational prices.

In the case of nickel, about 4,000 5,000 tonnes is estimated to be imported and Rs. 106 crores has been earmarked for the purpose.

However, during the first four months, 1,517 tonnes of nickel valued at Rs. 54.08 crores has been imported compared to import of 1,668 tonnes valued at Rs. 19.63 crores. And if the four months figures are any indication, the prices of nickel in the international market has shot up by 66 per cent.

# DUTY ON ALUMINIUM INGOTS REDUCED

The government has notified reduction in the basic rates of customs duty on aluminium ingots from Rs. 1,000 per tonne to Rs. 500 per tonne.

The reduction in the duty rate has been made keeping in view the current international and domestippices of aluminium. The duty structure of aluminium and downstream products have also been reduced.

A uniform rate of basic excise duty of 18 per cent ad valorem has been prescribed for both CG and EG grades of unwrought aluminium. The basic excise duty on aluminium waste, scrap, powers and flakes has been increased from 15 per cent to 20 per cent ad valorem. Change have also been effected in the rate of excise duty on aluminium strip and sheets used for specified pur poses according to an official release

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# Major minerals output may fall short of target

A recent official review has shown at the output of several key mineals by the end of the 7th Plan may all short of the target. As a result, he country's reliance on imports to neet the consequent gap between emand and availability will consierably go up.

This will also mean greater strain n the foreign exchange reserves which are already in a precarious tate. The aluminium output target or 1989-90 is set at 4,99,000 tonnes, while anticipated achievement will be 450,000 tonnes according to the review.

Similarly in the case of copper refined, the target is 42,700 tonnes, but the actual output may be around 39,000 tonnes. Zinc output may not exceed 83,000 tonnes against the target of 89,000 tonnes.

Out of 17 principal minerals, there was substantial fall in the output of seven last year for which the latest figures are available as compared to 1986. Production of minerals was only marginally hig-

The production of gold fell from 1,931 kg. in 1986 to 1,864 kg. in 1987 Chromite output fell from 630,000 tonnes to 624,000 tonnes.

Similarly manganese ore production fell from 12,84,000 tonnes to tonnes, barytes from 12.75.000 3,37,000 tonnes to 2,12,000 tonnes dolomite from 22,00,000 tonnes to 21,78,000 tonnes magnesite from 4,60,000 tonnes to 4,20,000 tonnes and steatite from 3,79,000 tonnes 3,59,000 tonnes.

Production of the following metals was only marginally higher: Lead concentrate from 44,000 tonnes to 47,000 tonnes, zinc concentrate from 90,000 tonnes to 105,000 tonnes, apatite and phosphorite from 6,67,000 tonnes to 6,79,000 tonnes.

Asbestos production in both the years was 27,000 tonnes, iron output marginally improved from 48.8 million tonnes to 49.4 million tonnes.

Production targets may, however, be attained in iron ore and lead.

concentrate is 58.1 million tonney and for lead 27,000 tonnes.

#### INDUSTRY HAILS NEW STATE POLICY

Trade and industry circles have welcomed the Maharashtra government's new industrial policy offering a range of incentives giving a new thrust to the process of industrialisation of the state.

The Bombay Chamber of Commerce president, Mr. K. R. V. Subramaniam, said while the plan to develop 64 growth centres in coming years was laudable, the chamber suggested that it would be advisable to develop one or two model growth centres with all social and economic infrastructure initially in Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan areas to serve as examples for the creation of similar centres in othr areas of the state.

The industry would be ready to

cooperate in the formulation of such model growth centres, the chamber president said.

The creation of a ministry of textiles at the state level is very appropriate and timely as the restoration of the health of this industry.

The chamber hopes that to accelerate the pace of industrialisation, the incentives announced for expansion and diversification will also be available to larger industrial unite including those in group A

The Confedration of Engineering Industry (CEI) said that it would look forward to proper implementation of the policy for accelerated growth of industries in the state.

CEI felt. however, that the policy should have provided for solving specific problems of industrial units in metropolitan areas in need of modernisation.

The All India Association of Industries said the new policy would provide the much-needed impetus to the industrial growth of Maharash-

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#### New package to boost exports

The Union Government has approved a package of measures to help the country achieve higher exports during the current financial year, the target for which has been revised upwards to Rs. 18,795 crores. This signifies a 19.6 per cent growth in dollar terms over the performance in 1987-88.

The package includes reduction in import duty on a variety of raw materials needed for the thrust export sectors, removal of freight-related problems, availability of more raw materials at international prices and relaxation of monetary restrictions on the gems and jewellery sector.

The measures are contained in a short-term strategy paper prepared by the Commerce Ministry, which was discussed and approved at the meeting of the Cabinet Committe on Exports, held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, on August 2. The meeting was attended, among others, by the Commerce Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh.

In order to achieve the overall export target, it has now been decided to earmark the entire production of alumina and aluminium by the National Alumnium Co. for exports during '88-89. It has also been decided that the problems of competitiveness arising out of high freight and porticharges in the minerals sector would be resolved so as to ensure additional exports in these sectors, which have been facing difficult export prospects in recent years, especially in iron ore because of the depressed world market.

The package includes reduction of import duty on PU foil/film and on thermoplastic rubber materials used for the manufacture of TPR soles for boosting exports of leather and leather manufactures. It has also been decided that supply of raw materials like HR coils, pig iron and billets to the engineering exporters would be ensured.

It has been decided that availability of adequate funds under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) would be ensured through an appropriate mechanism

like alternative sources of funding. Permission to import second-hand building drums and presses will also be granted to step up exports of automotive tyres.

Another measure, approved by the committee, pertains to reduction in import duty on automatic glove-making plants and ceramic moulds to take advantage of favourable trends in the international market for rubber surgical gloves for making an export thurst.

In addition, it has been decided that public sector units such as the Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Organic Chemicals would be directed to supply chemical raw materials and intermediates needed by exporters of drugs and pharmaceuticals, dyes and dye intermediates, organic and inorganic chemicals, agro-chemicals and plastics at international prices against surrender of advance licences.

These measures have been evolved on the basis of surveys of prospects for raising exports in different sectors after taking into account the domestic production, particularly in the context of the drought, growth in export surpluses, nature of competition faced by the products abroad and the trends of world demand.

While the effort has been to concentrate on maximising exports in all sectors, the main areas, 'which are expected to show substantial growth during the current year are engineering goods, chemicals and related products, leather manufactures and gems and jewellery.

Accordingly, the targets for these sectors have been revised upwards. The revised targets are Rs. 2,000 crores for engineering goods, Rs. 1,900 crores for chemicals and related products, Rs. 1,500 crores for leather manufactures and Rs. 4,000 crores for gems and jewellery. The growth projected for these sectors works out to 39.6 per cent, 48.4 per cent, 31.7 per cent and 53.1 per cent respectively.

The export strategy underlying these measures has three broad ob-

jectives. These are: accelerating production in the export-oriented sectors and simultaneously increasing exportable surplus, exercising selective restraints on domestic consumption and to the extent necessary providing capital goods, raw materials and components at world prices for export production as a general principle, and to accord priority to export demands in the area of infrastructure, namely power, transportation, port and telecommunications.

Such a three-pronged strategy is considered necessary if a quantum jump in exports has to be achieved to raise the share of exports in the gross national product from the existing level of 4.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

#### NEW MAHARASHTRA POLICY AIMS AT SPREADING INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY

The Maharashtra Government has announced a new industrial location policy whereby units which are set up farthest from Bombay would get greater incentives than those which are nearer the overcrowded metropolis.

Further, the five year new package has such incentives which are "better than those which are prevalant in the neighbouring States" of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka" which according to Chief Minister Mr. Sharad Pawar, would attract enterprises from outside.

Mr. Pawar announced to presspersons that this distance criterion would enable spread of industries to the backward regions for long neglected and if industrial enterprises assure and demonstrate that 80 per cent of the non-technical jobs would be given to locals then incentives would be more.

Though details are yet to be worked out, the Maharashtra Government has a proposal to give greater incentives to those industries which are located within Bombay, Thane-Belapur region but would like to migrate to other places.

## **Company News**

#### AC TO DIVERSIFY

Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals & Certilisers Limited (TAC) is to liversify into low investment and high return areas, such as pesticides and detergents. According to the company's vice-chairman and president, Mr. C. W. S. Mani, this step would not only help in fuller utilisation of the company's marketing network but would also enable it to improve its profitability which has been under strain ever since commencement of operations in 1982.

As a first step ATC has recently acquired Sterling Pesticides Limited, a small-scale insecticides unit at Tiruchirapally, through outright purchase. The company now hopes to market such chemical formulations in a big way in the Tanjore, Tiruchirapally and Madurai districts of Tamil Nadu where it already has a well-developed agricultural inputs delivery network. According to Mr. Mani, the company — which has 450 acres of land under salt pans at Tuticorin - has recently taken up the marketing of iodised salt through distributors. Though TAC has entered the field with a modest production of 5,000 tonnes of iodised salt per annum, there was good scope for the company to expand in this market where the annual demand was in excess of 52 lakh tonnes. At present the total production of iodised salt in the country was only around 14 lakh tonnes a year.

On prospects for the financial revival of the joint sector company which has accumulated losses amounting to Rs. 5 crores so far, Mr. Mani said that financial institutions had already

cleared a Rs. 6 crore rehabilitation package. Consequently, the company was now implementing schemes that would enable it to achieve additional production of 10,000 tonnes each of soda ash and ammonium chloride annually as well as give it a captive power generation capacity thus enabling it to tide over problems of power cuts.

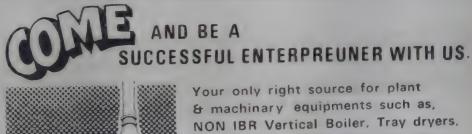
TAC, which has been jointly promoted by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation and Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC), presently has a licenced capacity to produce 66,000 tonnes each of soda ash and ammonium chloride per annum.

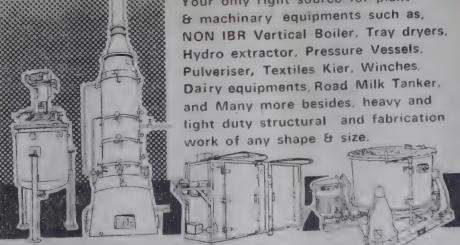
The Centre's decision to place ammonium chloride under the retention price scheme had helped the company turn the corner and report its first ever profit of Rs. 4.06 crores in 1987, Mr. Mani said. The company's turnover during the 12-month period ended December 31, 1987 was Rs. 39.01 crores as against a turnover of Rs. 48.43 crores for the 18-month period ended December 31, 1986.

#### UNION CARBIDE

The shareholders of Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) passed a special resolution altering the memorandum of association of the company paving the way for it to diversify at the annual general meeting held at Calcutta recently.

According to chairmancum-managing director V.P. Gokhale, the need for diversi-







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fication had become necessary due to the saturation in the dry battery market. While demand in the home market has remained static at 1985 levels, he said the export market was declining as most countries had sufficient indigenous capacity for battery manufacture.

Referring to the company's performance during 1987, Mr. Gokhale said a major concern was the closed Chembur chemicals and plastics plant, which was incurring a loss of Rs. 50 lakhs per month.

He mentioned that since public sector organisations had not shown any interest in acquiring the plant, the company was hopeful of securing Union government approval to sell the plant to a private sector organisation.

It was contemplated that under such a transaction, the buyer will continue the services of all current employees of the Chembur unit on the existing terms and conditions of service.

Mr. Gokhale said UCIL had received various offers in this regard but with a view to offering an opportunity to other organisations with necessary financial and managerial capabilities to bid for the plant, the board had decided to extend the last day for receipt of offers to August 25, 1988.

During 1987, the company's income was Rs. 200.96 crores compared to Rs. 217. 45 crores in 1986. Profit before tax was Rs. 7.25 crores (Rs. 9.01 crores in 1986) and profit after tax Rs. 4.75 crores (Rs. 5.01 crores). The company paid a divided of 12 per cent, the same as the previous year.

#### TWO SHORTLISTED FOR SHALIMAR PAINTS TAKEOVER

Courtaulds is understood to have shortlisted two prospective buyers for the Calcutta-based Shalimar Paints Limited, in which it has a 32 per cent stake through its subsidiary, International Paints PLC.

The two parties, according to informed sources, are ICI of UK, the Indian outfit of which is IEL Limited, and industrialist Vijay Mallya of United Breweries. In all, around six industrial groups, almost all of them based in this part of the country, are known to have bid for Shalimar Paints.

Both the groups shortlisted by Courtaulds, already have a presence in the paint industry in India, Mr. Mallya in the form of a controlling interest in the Calcutta-based Berger Paints and IEL in its paints division at Rishra.

With the acquisition of Shalimar Paints, which reported a turnover of slightly less than Rs. 60 crores last year, either of these two groups could become number two in the industry overtaking the current number two, Goodlass Nerolac (turnover approximately Rs. 104 crores).

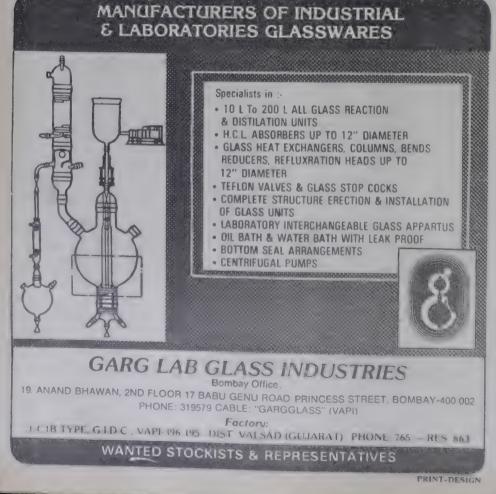
Courtaulds, it appears, is keen to dispose off Shalimar Paints, to either of these parties as the foreign exchange transfers would be smoother.

#### CHEMOX CHEMICAL

Chemox Chemical Industries has recommended a maiden dividend of six per cent on the enlarged capital on prorata basis for the year ended March 1988. The company has fared well.

The turnover is up by 33 per cent to Rs. 769.16 lakhs from Rs. 577.91 lakhs in the previous year. The gross profit has more than doubled to Rs. 7.46 lakhs from Rs. 3.06 lakhs last year.

The net profit has risen substantially to Rs. 4.12 lakhs from Rs. 1.45 lakhs after depreciation (Rs. 0.33 lakh against Rs. 0.05 lakh), taxation (Rs. three lakhs againt Rs. 1.55 lakhs) and writing off the preliminary and other expenses (Rs. 0.01 lakh against the same).



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# Spotlight on Biotechnology & Life Sciences (Part II)

A New Genetically Engineered Nitrogen Fixing Soil Bacteria Under Field Trial

Biotechnica International has started field tests with its gene tically engineered nitrogen-fixing soil bacterium Rhizobium melitol on ninety alfalfa test plots at its Chippewa agricultural station. In greenhouse trials the gene-spliced strain increased yields of alfalfa according to Dr. David Glass, vice-president of government and regulatory affairs for Biotechnica Agriculture.

USA grows about 25.5 million acres/year of alfalfa producing a total crop worth \$7 billion, Conventional strains of rhizoba are used on about 80% of this crop. Because the crop is not in a surplus situation and growers receive a premium price for good quality alfalfa, an increase in yield provided by a competitively priced seed innoculant can mean more profit for growers. This is another example of the contribution of biotechnology (via genetic engineering) for boosting agriculture's profitability.

Biotechnica hopes to win government's approval later in 1988 for gene-spliced rhizobia strains specific to nitrogen fixation in soya bean. Company scientists are also working to engineer herbicide, disease and insect resistance in maize, soya beans, wheat and alfalfa. (ECN 5/2/88 p. 17)

The World's First Ever Transfer Of A Foreign Gene Into Maize

Plant scientists at Sandoz Crop Protection Corp, in Palo Alto, California have successfully managed to transfer a foreign gene into maize plants. This is a new landmark in agricultural biotechnology. Transferring genes that make plants resistant to pests, herbicides and diseases is one of the key targets for agricultural biotechnology. While this has been accomplished in dicotyledonous plants such as tobacco and tomato, the transfer of genes into commercially important monocotyledons, such as cereals has not now proved elusive.

The genetic transformation of dicots is accomplished by smuggling the target gene into the plant using the bacterium Agrobacterium tumefaciens. This technique cannot be employed on cereal crops because these plants are not as susceptible to infection by the bacterium. Sandoz reserchers have adopted, however, a different novel approach. They report using protoplasts, plant cells stripped of their cell walls to translate the genes. These protoplasts are subjected to an electric current which produces holes in the membrane to allow the passage of the desired genes present in the growth medium into the cell.

The Sandoz research team then grew these protoplasts with a nurse culture of Black Mexican Sweet Maize Cell suspension. As a marker, researchers used a gene that eventually provides resistance to the antibiotic kanamycin. The researchers managed to grow plants from these cells that were resistant to the antibiotic indicating successful transfer of the genes.

But as the scientists report, all the regenerated plants were sterile and now the team is striving to regenerate fertile plants from such transformed cultures. Carol Rhodes, the chief researcher, believes that the reason the plants regenerated on the experiment did not seed is more to do with the cell line than the method.

"These cultures are now over two years old and it is not unusual for maize cell cultures of this age to carry genetic changes serious enough to cause sterility" explains Rhodes. The Sandoz team also has further information indicating that the technique can be used with other maize strains and cell cultures. (Science 240, pp 204-207)

A New Lipase Enzyme For Production Of High Purity Monoglycerides Developed

The enzyme Penicillium Lipase C is a new lipase enzyme developed by Biocatalyst Ltd. (UK) for the production of high purity monoglycerides. This enzyme offers a simpler and more costeffective alternative to chemical synthesis.

Enzymes are highly specific in their catalytic action and therefore offer benefits over chemical methods of synthesis. Very little diglyceride is formed during synthesis with this enzyme, thus producing cost savings in the subsequent purification stages.

Other uses of lipases as catalyst in chemical synthesis include both flavour and pharmaceutical production.

Penicillium Lipase C, purified from Penicillium cyclopium demonstrates high specificity against monoglycerides with a pH optimum of 5.0 and temperature

timum at 40°C. The enzyme is able for 6 months. (Food anuf. 1/1988 p. 17)

Guide & Dictionary On ermented Foods Consumed forldwide

A guide and perhaps the orld's first dictionary listing ferented foods consumed worldide has been recently published by Butterworth (1987) under e title: "Fermented Foods of the World: A Dictionary & uide".

The author C. G. Campbell latt, whose interest in ferment-d foods began when he taught the University of Ghana, has empleted a dictionary of over 500 foods, classified into 250 roups. He has divided ferment-d foods into nine major classes: everages, cereals, dairy products, fish, meat, starch crops, tuits/vegetables, legumes and hiscellaneous products.

Information is given on the reas in which the fermented cods occur in the world, producton techniques, microbiological and biochemical characteristics, composition and nutritive value. Hames of foodstuffs are cross reserrenced throughout. At the end of the dictionary, the foods are ested alphabetically, both by resion of production and by class.

By the very nature and its pioeer endeavour, such a book is cound to be uneven in the amoint of information given for indiridual foods and the author adnits the list is far from complee. It is nevertheless a signicant and unique reference soure and should prove extremely eseful to all those interested in the wide diversity of fermented boods. (Food Manuf. 1/1988, p. Novo Publishes An Informative Handbook On Practical Biotechnology

Novo Industry (Denmark) has recently published an informative handbook under the title: "Hand-

book of Practical Biotechnology". This handbook besides covering interesting aspects in practical biotechnology, gives an excellent review of the role of enzymes in food processing. The Table 1 below covers major applications of enzymes in food technology.

Table 1: Enzyme Applications In Foods & Food Processing

Industry	Applications
Baking	Dough conditioning
	Flour bleaching
	Flour malting
	Anti-staling
Brewing	Low calorie beer
	Chill-proofing
	Barley brewing
	Alternative adjunct liquefaction and saccharification
Dairy	Cheese making
· · · ·	Accelerated cheese ripening
	Natural cheese flavour
	concentrates
	Whey utilization
	Lactose intolerance reduction
Fruit Juice	Mash treatment
	Depectinization
	Starch/Araban haze removal
	Citrus pulp wash viscosity
	reduction
Starch	High fructose corn syrup (HFCS
	Maltose syrups
	Dextrin syrups
	Dextrose
Protein	Rendering
	Soy milk production
	Egg white replacers
	Emulsifier production
	Functional hydrolysates
Fats & Oils	Cocoa butter substitutes
	Flavour ester synthesis
	Speciality fats for better nutrition
Pet Foods	Sprayable digests
100 10000	Palatability enhancement
	Improving extruder performance
Miscellaneous	Meat tenderizing
THI SOUTH THE STATE OF THE STAT	Coffee-soluble extract
	Viscosity reduction

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Enzymes are natural versatile catalysts. The food industry has taken advantage of their capability to increase product yields and increase byproducts and reduce energy costs.

Biochemists formally classify enzymes into 6 categories according to the reaction catalyzed:

- Oxidation/reduction
- ligation
- Hydrolysing
- Transfer reactions
- Isomerizations and
- Reactions in which they are additives to double bonds.

The use of enzymes in food processing has greatly expanded in recent years (refer Table 1 in p. 75) and cover the following significant objectives: (a) reduce viscosity, (b) improve extraction (c) carry out bioconversions, (d) enhance separations, (e) develop functionality, (f) create or intensify flavour and (g) synthesize novel chemicals via fermentation.

Most of the industrial enzymes used today in the food industry fall into hydrolytic category. These enzymes characteristically depolymerize their substrates into smaller oligomers and/or monomers. Examples include; proteins that break proteins into peptides and/or amino acids, amylases that hydrolyze starch to dextrins and simple sugars like maltose or glucose and lipases that split fatty acids off triglycerides.

Enzymes have contributed greatly to the development of novel foods, fast foods, packaged food products with long shelf-life in affluent countries like America, Japan & Western Europe, In contrast, the foods in the third world countries are drab with practically little or no development of novel foods from local food resource. Food enzymes have also

played an important role in developing a range of packaged foods based on soyabeans in affluent countries particularly in Japan and USA.

(Nova's Handbook of Practical Biotechnology, For a free copy, contact: Novo Laboratories Inc., 33, Turner Road, Dept. CEP, Danbury, CT. 06810, USA.)

Unilever Unveils Dynamic Plans for Biotech Research On Seed Improvement

Unilever (UK) has recently unveiled some of its plans for the plant breeding and seedmarketing organization it bought recently from the UK government last year for \$123 million. The new Plant Breeding International (Cambridge, UK) will continue with its breeding programmes for wheat, barely, potatoes, oilseeds and pulses and will eventually be expanding its crop portfolio.

The Company's research policy will focus on improving yields, quality, and disease resistance and will aim to serve the end-user sectors, such as the food industry. Unilever scientists have been asked to focus on improved fatty acid profiles in the oil seed crops. This research therefore should have particular significance for India (the world's largest importer of ediple oils). Unilever is also investing in biotechnology in a big way.

Unilever's interest in the seeds sector is, however different from that of the chemical industry. The company will focus on the genetic improvement of the raw materials of the food industry. In contrast, chemical companies are interested in the sector because it will support their agrochemical business. (ECN, 5/9/88, p. 23)

## The World's First Patent For A Genetically Engineered Animal

A genetically engineered mouse has shaken the foundation of biotechnology in the US by earuing the world's first patent for a genetically engineered animal. The USA government's Patent & Trade Mark Office last April issued the patent to Harvard University and two of the university's scientists Philip Leder and Timothy Stewart. Du Pont which has funded Leder's research since 1981, has an exclusive licence to breed the mice commercially.

The patent is broad covering any "non-human eukaryotic (having nucleated cells)" into which scientists plant an active oncogene (a cancer causing gene) or a sequence of DNA that induces cancer in the animal and its offspring. Leder and Stewart created a 'transgenic' animal, a mouse that carries the oncogene cmye in both its result, the mouse cells. As a result, the mouse and its offspring are genetically predisposed to breast cancer. Harvard has deposited the plasmid, or genetic vector carrying the oncogene with the American Type Culture Collection.

Such mice are valuable to researchers for testing the potency of carcinogens or substances that combat cancer and as cell bank for cancer research. Harvard's mice will succumb to carcinogens at lower doses more commonly found in nature.

Researchers at the USDA, are experimenting with several transgenic animals, e.g. they have developed a genetically engineered chicken that is resistant to avain leukosis virus. Another application to the patent office by Integrated Genetics (Massachusetts, USA) covers engineered rodents

at secrete a therapeutic protein, ssue plasminogen activator, in e milk of lactating females. The ompany has also applied for atents in Europe. (New Sc., /21/88, p. 23)

lew Bacteria identified For oil Clean Up

Microorganisms have successally cleaned up about 4000 cu. d of diesel and gasoline contaninated soil in a project underaken by Biota (Los Angeles), an nvironmental consulting hat specializes in the use of mirobes. Employing bacteria saved n unidentified client about 75% n costs, compared with the alternative of shipping the contaminaed dirt to a landfill. The proect was unusual in terms of its size and it took about 3-1/2 nonths to reduce contaminant levels to those that are significanty lower than the legal requirement.

The site was a non-operational Los Angeles distribution and trucking facility where soil had been contaminated by leaking underground fuel tanks. After the tanks were removed, the soil was excavated and the hydrocarbons owere degraded by two naturally loccurring bacteria Pseudomonas apseudomallei and Serralia liquestaciens. Potassium nitrate was added to the soil, which had virtually no nitrogen. Phosphate buffers were also added to stabilize the pH.

In another project, with Hercules, Biota is planning to use bacteria to clean up soil residues of trinitrotoluene and dinitrobenzene. The researchers have identified five different species to successfully clean-up the above soil residues. These species include three different Pseudomonas species, one species of Aero-

mona's and one species of Enterobacter. (Chem. Wk., 5/4/88, p. 43)

European Corn Borer In Com
To Be Eradicated By GeneticallyEngineered Micro-organisms

The first field trials in USA of a genetically-engineered microorganism is expected to take place in Maryland in the spring of 1988. The organism combats the European corn borer — an insect that damages corn worth \$400 million in the USA alone. The French National Agricultural Research Centre is also considering proposals for trials of the same organisms.

Crop Genetics International (CGI), the company that engineered the organism hopes to market it by 1991. The well-known environmentalist Jeremy Rifkin, however, reports that the organism could constitute a hazard to the environment.

CGI re-engineered the microbe Clavibacterxyl cynodontis (Cxc) to include a gene from Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt.). The gene codes for Kurstaki, an insecticidal endotoxin that interferes with the digestive systems of caterpillars including the European corn borer.

Trialls in greenhouses show that Cxc the parent bacteria, will colonize corn. Rifkin reports that the parent bacteria threatens the environment because it will also colonize 83 other plant species.

Last April, the Hazard Evaluation Division of the US's EPA issued a permit for CGI to do small scale field trials. This, however, is not a formal approval. The EPA will wait for public comments and a review of the report by academic experts.

Before giving approval for tests, the EPA considers whether

threat to people or to other organisms and whether it is likely to persist in the environment. There will be limited human exposing in these trials. The plants will be burnt after the trial and Cxc is pretty fastidious. It cannot grow at the human body temperature. Further, before the EPA reaches a final decision, geneticists will study the length of time that the gene stays in Cxc. (New Sc., 4/7/88, p. 18).

A New Cotton Hybridization Technology Developed

American Cyanamid Co. has purchased Piewalt Corporation's cotton hybridization technology and established Chembred Inc. in Arizona to develop it.

The technology offers both near term potential for significantly higher cotton yields and longer range potential for the introduction of genetically engineered traits into cotton and other crops.

Field evaluations have shown a minimum of 10 to 12% higher cotton yields and excellent seed-ling vigour in the hybrid plants reports Chemred researchers.

Conventional approaches to developing hybrid cotton have been largely unsuccessful because of the nature of the plant. The hybridizing Chembred (CHA) renders the male part of the cotton plant sterile, thereby allowing the plant to be pollinated by other non-CHA treated plants nearby. "Widely varying selection opportunities with the Chembred system also make plant breeding for specific market areas quite promising" reports Dr. Denis Ciarlante, associate director of new product development in Cyanamid's Agricultural Research Division. (CMR, 12/21/87, p. 49)

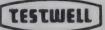
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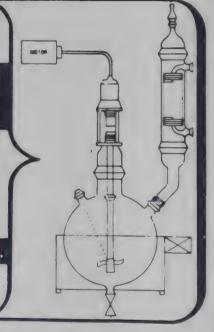
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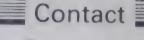
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## Thermal Stabilisation of Polyvinyl Chloride: Tin Stabilisers

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#### INTRODUCTION

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) has wide industrial application in both rigid and flexible forms. The major applications of PVC are in the form of films, foams, electrical appliances, wall and floor covering and host of others However, the basic disadvantage associated with PVC has been its inherent thermal instability which leads to the formation of coloured material on heating, specially in rigid form of PVC. Further in out-door applications. PVC is exposed to heat, light and humidity causing degradation. Some of the degraded products may act as chromophores helping light absorption and subsequent photo-induced chain scission reaction Although. chain scission and cross linking both take place during thermal exposure of this polymer, the term degradation is usually referred to the dehydrochlorination reaction leading to the conjugated structures.

Due to these reasons, it is imperative to use stabilizer as a compounding ingredient for PVC. The nature and type of stabilizer vary according to the requirement However, incorporation of thermal stabilizer(s) is a must because without it PVC cannot be processed. Lead compounds, combination of calcium and barium compound and tin compounds are very useful and popular. Of all these, tin stabilizers are usually superior (if used judiciously) in stabilizing PVC. The advantages include:

- 1. Besides being a thermo-stabilizer, they act as antioxidant too.
- 2. They exert curative function by reacting with polyene sequences as in case of tin maleates thereby contributing to shortening of polyene chains responsible for discolouration.
- 3. They react with already formed onium salt providing another curative function.
- 4. They provide a compatible system with other components of the mixture.

#### Mechanism of Thermal Degradation

Considerable amount of research has been conducted on the mechanism of PVC. It has been observed that the elimination of hydrogen chloride followed by the

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distribution of conjugated polyene sequences along the molecular chain is the first step of degradation.

The thermo exidative degradation of PVC is thus a complicated chemical process even in the initial stages. Since, the chemical structure of PVC is not expected to be unstable below 200 C as confirmed by the thermal stability of model compounds such as 2, 4-dichloropentane and 2, 4-6 trichloroheptane etc (1, 2-4), it has been proposed that various structural defects or impurities are responsible for thermal instability in the polymer (5, 6). It has recently been proposed that chloroallyl groups present in PVC have a considerable influence over PVC degradation (7).

However, studies of Calaculacu et al.(8) and Suzuki(9) have shown that branching structures involve only tertiary hydrogen atoms. It therefore, appears that dehydrochlorination may be initiated from such impurities(10) as (a) extraneous impurities. (b) head to head units. (c) oxidation structure. (d) syndiotacticity (e) initiator residue (f) unsaturated chain ends (g) tertiary chlorine atoms and (h) allylic chlorines However, the relative contribution of these defects to polymer degradation has not been much studied(10) Baum et al.(11) have shown that initiation sites of degradation in PVC are unsaturated chain ends at 150°C and tertiary chlorine at 190°C. It has been proposed that in the presence of tertiary chlorine, the degradation reaction may be initiated at a temperature much lower than that expected(12). Such structures may be represented as

The importance of t-CI of the branched structures towards thermal dehydrochlorination has been raised by Valko(13). However, it has been accepted that the dehy

drochlorination takes place in the form of zip elimination. The average length of polyene sequences, varies in the range of 4-10 which suggests that dehydrochlorination does not proceed along the entire molecule, instead the chain gets terminated (14). The degradation, therefore, proceeds practically without any molecular chain scission(15). However, the presence of oxygen causes more severe effects on PVC degradation. A correlation between dehydrochlorination and unsaturation has been made by others also (17, 18). Thermal degradation of PVC has been shown to be an autocatalytic process due to the presence of eliminated HCI. The interaction of HCl with polyenes in the molecular chains has been reported by a number of workers (15, 19, 20). The formation of both longer as well as shorter polyene formation has been observed(21). However, the formation of polyene sequence length depends on whether the HCI formed has been removed or allowed to remain in the polymer matrix. Recently Nagy et al.(22) have shown that HCI is able to reinitiate the allyl-activated zip elimination by a mechanism involving proton-exchange with polyenes. In the presence of HCI, proton exchange may lead to the migration of the polyene resulting in the formation of allyl-activated chlorine atom which is then involved in the reinitiation of zip-elimination.

Such a migratory process along the chain facilitates the conversion of short polyene segments into longer one -- thereby linking up the sequences.

It has been observed that a number of chemical reactions also follow during the course of thermal degradation (23, 24). Studies (25-30) have shown that the rate of degradation and distribution of polyene sequences is highly dependent upon the tacticity of polymer. Since, it is the polymerization conditions (the most prominent being temperature and catalyst) which determine the stereoregularity of PVC(31, 32), the careful selection of these parameters may be useful in reducing the degradative nature of the polymer. It has been found that degradation is much higher with the increase in syndiotacticity in the polymer and results in the formation of long polyene sequences(31). These observations suggest that the propagation of conjugated structure is facilitated along the syndiotactic sequences. Park and Skeno(32) presented a relation between the dehydrochlorination rate of PVC obtained by solution polymerization using four initiators. They reported that the dehydrochlorination rate decreased in the following order:

Lauryl peroxide > diisopropyl peroxydicarbonate >

benzoyl peroxide > azobis isobutyronitrile

They found that the degradation rate of PVC increased with the increasing initiator content. An interesting study on the X-ray-induced polymerization of PVC has been reported by Henderson et al. 33. It was found that the polymer prepared at less than 0.45 Mrad exposure had thermal stability comparable to that of commerical suspension grade PVC. It has been proposed that allylic chlorines produced during radiolysis could be responsible for the decrease in stability. A wide variety of stabilizers is available which may provide a material with acceptable thermal stability, the most common ones being organometallic compounds such as organotin mercaptide, maleates, barium/cadmium carboxylates, organic phosphite and epoxy compounds. However, the organotin mercaptide, of the general formula

where R is CH3, C4H9 etc. and Y is OOCR', OCCH=CH COOR' or SCH2COOR', have proved to e very effective class of stabilizers for PVC because of their excellent performance for all the methods of processing and hence, constitute a large fraction of the curent research on thermal stabilization of PVC with special attention to their mode of action (34-36). Of the several organotin compounds currently in use for PVC thermal stabilization, dialkyltin bis (iso-octyl thioglycolate) has shown better results.

As discussed earlier, hydrogen chloride exerts a catalytic action to the thermal degradation of PVC and proceeds by an ionic or molecular-ionic mechanism. Therefore, using effective acceptors of HCI, it may become possible to reduce the auto-catalytic dehydrochlorination of PVC. Consequently, deactivation of ionic pairs and ions involved in chain-ionic mechanism or else the interaction of a compound with conjugated double bonds should also be effective in reducing degradation of PVC. A number of studies(37-39) have shown that the stabilisers provide maximum thermal stabilisation for PVC by (a) eliminating labile sites responsible for dehydrochlorination, (b) acting as HCI scavenger, (c) reacting with free radicals as they are formed and (d) acting as antioxidants. The efficiency of organotin mercaptides lies in the fact that they are capable of binding the hydrogen chloride and hence neutralise its accelerating effect on the dehydrochlorination. Rockett et al.(40) have shown that such a behaviour provides a preventive function to the degradation. This observation was based on his earlier studies(41) involving the cleavage of organotin compounds by aqueous hydrochloric acid.

The tin chlorides thus formed are still able to retard the thermal dehydrochlorination of PVC. This may be because of the complex formation between tin chlorides and allyl structures along the molecular chain. It does not mean that such chlorides could provide a thermal stabilizing system to the polymer, where like conventional stabilisers, an induction period is of utmost importance and hence, such chlorides may be expected to enhance the overall efficiency of the stabliser. Hoang et al.(42) have determined the retardation effect of various alkyl-tin chlorides on the dehydrochlorination in PVC, which depends upon the Lewis acidity of the compound. They found that butyltin mono and dichlorides exert good retardation effect in the system. However, trichloride act as efficient pro-degradant catalyst but the effect being much lower than that of ZnCl<sub>2</sub>. A study(43) has shown that certain structural features in tin stabi-

lizer are desirable for good stabilisation but, in general, there does not exist any exact correlation between the structure and stabilising efficiency. Ayrey et al.(44) tried to correlate the effect of alkyl group of organotin bis (iso octyl thioglycolate) with their stabilising efficiency in PVC. As such no single conclusion could be drawn from his results. However, n-alkyl group was found to provide better stabilisation than branched ones (Table I). Further, alkyl derivatives were found to be superior to the aryl derivatives probably because of their higher susceptibility towards carbon-tin bond cleavage by HCI, a reaction which reduces pro-degradant tin IV chloride(45).

TABLE-I Efficiency of Organotin bis(isooctyl thioglycollate) R<sub>2</sub>Sn(SCH<sub>2</sub>COO(C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>17</sub>-I) for PVC@

R	Time for first per-ceptible colour (min)	Time for sample to become black or dark brown (min)
Ma	50	80
Me	60	80
Et	40	90
Pr	40	70
Bu	20	30
t-Bu	40	70
C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>	20	50
Me <sub>3</sub> SiCH <sub>2</sub>	20	30
PhCH <sub>2</sub>	0	0
BrCH <sub>2</sub>	20	50
PhCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	20	40
EtOCOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	20	50
Ph Ph OC H	10	10
P-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	10	10
P-PhOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	10	30
P-CIC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	10	40
P-CF <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	20	20
O-MeO C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> +	20	40
O-PhOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	20	30
O-F C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> No stabiliser	0*	0*
	redusing hot mill. Sam	ples then aged at 195

@ = 2% stabiliser introduced using hot mill. Samples then aged at 195'

+ = Corresponding time for bis co-methoxyphenyl tin bis (methyl thioglycollate is 10,20

Discolouration occured during milling.

In another study, it has been found by Pollar(34) that the effectiveness of stabiliser is decreased with the increase in alkyl chain length 'R'. The substitution of a H-atom in the α-position of the alkyl group by electron withdrawing group reduces the stabilising action as observed in the case when R is BrCH<sub>2</sub>. Authors(34) propose that for effective stabilisation, all of the tin compounds should be converted to the relatively weak Lewis acid R<sub>2</sub>SnCl<sub>2</sub> and not in SnCl<sub>4</sub> which is a powerful catalyst for dehydrochlorination. He prepared a stabiliser, R<sub>2</sub>Sn(SCH<sub>2</sub> COOC<sub>8</sub>H<sub>17</sub>-i)<sub>2</sub>, where R group was 4-keto-pentyl and found that the keto group was free in stabiliser but coordinated to tin in the dichloride. When the stabiliser was incorporated in PVC, it showed twice the effectiveness in stabilisation than dibutyl tin (isooctyl thioglycolate).

It has been found that Iso-octyl thioglycolate (IO TG), produced during the reaction, is further involved in the removal of polyene sequence by reacting with them: Considerable improvement in the colour of thermally degraded PVC samples by a treatment with IO TG has been observed(45). The possibility of a mechanism of incorporation of sulfur into PVC has been explored by several other workers also (46, 47). Initial studies of Fyre et al.(48, 49) have shown that the substitution of allylic chlorides present in the molecular chain by RoSnYo during processing at elevated temperatures, is one of the main reactions involved in the thermal stabilisation of PVC. The efficiency is further enhanced by the fact that they act as a good exchanger of labile chlorine atom from the site for dehydrochlorination in the chain (50, 51). It has been proposed that the substitution reaction takes place according to the mechanism shown below. The study(50) showed that Y group of the stabiliser, R<sub>2</sub>SnY<sub>2</sub>, became chemically bound to the polymer chain during milling at 160°C A mechanism for stabilisation was proposed which involved formation of a complex between tertiary or allylic chlorine atoms with the fin compound followed by the replacement of chlorine by a Y group with the liberation of RaSnYCI

This substitution reaction appears to be the classical property of organotin mercaptide species. Ayrey et

al.(39) have also proposed that the substitution includes a multi-centre mechanism following allylic rearrangement. Studies(52) based on model compounds also support above observation that the substitution reaction of tin thioglycollate compound on the allylic chlorine proceeds through a cationic mechanism involving an intermediate carbocation as suggested by Poller et al.(53) and Klemchuck(36). Studies of Suzuki et al.(54) made further confirmation of exchange reaction at 200°C between model allylic chloro compounds and organotin dicarboxylates, i.e., dibutyltin laurate which accelerates the elimination of chloride from a tertiary site. The elimination of HCI leads to the formation of allylic chloride which is subsequently removed by ester exchange.

The overall stabilising efficiency of organotin mercaptides, could, therefore, be summerised as shown in scheme 1. An early discolouration of polymer has to be avoided in the polymer processing and this has been successfully achieved in PVC when heated at 350°F using the stabilisers from dialkyl, dicycloalkyl or alkylcycloalkyl tin mercapto carboxylic acid ester, i.e. dibutyl tin bis (isooctyl thioglycollate) and an &- or B-mercapto acid or alcohol(55). It was found that such acids and alcohols as thiolactic acid, thiomalic acid, thiosalicylic acid, mercaptoethanol and B-mercaptopropionic acid, imparted stabilising action only in conjunction with the organotin mercapto acid ester which reduced or entirely prevented development of yellow colouration in the resin for first 30 minutes of heating at 350°F These compounds even reduced any initial cloudiness and discolouration in the resin introduced by the tin stabiliser and other impact modifier or lubricants. Rockett et al.(47) determined the stabilising efficiency of several organotin compounds of the structure R<sub>2</sub>SnY<sub>2</sub> by milling them in PVC followed by measuring colour formation. It was found that organotin mercaptide and the carbothiolic ester were completely and rapidly cleaved by HCI and exerted very good stabilization to PVC. However, the carbothiolic esters were degraded partially to corresponding organotin carbothilic

Scheme 1. Stabilising mechanism of Tin mercaptides

oride and were less effective. The organotin carboxtes were very poor stabilisers and did not produce e thiols and aqueous hydrochloric acid. These results ggest that the reaction of HCI, i.e., trapping of HCI the stabiliser is a prominent factor and a measure estabilising efficiency.

Among the other tin compounds, maleates have been ed for the thermal stabilisation of PVC. But, their effincy to the system is poor in comparison to thioglylates. It may be because of the dienophilic nature of leic acid. However, such stabilisers are very good for eir photo-stabilising action even better than thioglycites where the sensitising nature of mercapto group erates in the system. Coorey and Scott(56) have en a comparative study of stabilisation mechanism dibutyltin maleate (DBTM) and dioctyltin bis(isooctyl to glycollate) (DOTG) during thermal processing. Thilycollate is relatively more effective than DBTM as ermal stabiliser during processing. Both these stabiers have ability to introduce induction period by reactwith the allylic chlorine and hydrogen chloride formed ring degradation. However, in contrast to maleate staisers, DBTG, has additional capability of reacting with a unsaturated structures formed as a consequence of echano-chemically induced dehydrochlorination, ereby resulting in a decrease in the initial unsaturaon in PVC(56). Tin maleates do not have such ability, stead they react with conjugated double bonds formed

subsequently by a Diels-Alden reaction and hence in such cases, the unsaturation remains constant(57).

On the other hand, tin thioglycollates also reduces the hydrogen peroxide concentration to a level which is no longer measurable, providing additional thermooxidative stabilisation. Scott et al.(58) have given a good study on the stabilisation of PVC using tin maleate stabiliser. It was found that the efficiency of the system depends on the amount of stabiliser remaining after the processing of the polymer. Another study of stabilising effectiveness of alkyl (aryl) tin maleate and thioglycollates during the thermal degradation of PVC has been made by Troitskii et al.(59). It was found that the rate of PVC dehydrochlorination was one eighth than the rate of polymer degradation in vacuo with the removal of HCI. The stabilising efficiency of the maleate and thioglycollate has been ascribed to the trapping of HCI, interaction with conjugated double bonds of degraded PVC and reaction with the labile chlorine atoms at B-position to the double bonds (chloroallylic groups). Interestingly, Lagner et al.(60) found that the radiation grafting of styrene or acrylonitrile to PVC is sharply reduced by the addition of such tin stabilisers as dibutyl tin laurate, dibutyltin methylene bis (thioglycollate), and dibutyltin octamethylene bis (thioglycollate). This could be because of the retardation in the decay of free radicals in PVC by these compounds which are presumed to inhibit free radical reaction.

#### CONCLUSION

Polyvinly chloride has become a material of wide industrial importance, in particular for construction application, flooring and wall covering. One of the drawbacks associated with the polymer has been its degradation leading to discolouration during processing at elevated temperature. This is because of certain inherent impurities in the polymer which may arise during the polymerization itself(61). Several additives have been used to impart thermal stability in the polymer but, no satisfactory combination could be established. However, current research indicates that tin stabilisers show much better results when milling is carried out with PVC. The stabilisers, such as, isooctyltin bis (thioglycollate), impart resistance to initial discolouration which is the first requisite for PVC stabilisation.

The efficiency of tin stabilisers lies in the fact that they

not only act as binders of hydrochloric acid which acts as an accelerator for PVC degradation but also eliminates labile sites responsible for dehydrochlorination. Thus it is now possible to stabilize PVC more effectively against thermal degradation by the use of tin stabilisers.

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## Chemical News From Abroad

ON STUDIES LLDPE UNIT, WES CRACKER PLANS

possibility of building a linlow density high density polyylene plant in Europe. The ility would be the first of its d for the company in the rein. It is a major world suppliof IIdPE from its plants in the and its Kemya joint venture th Sabic in Saudi Arabia.

Now, however, a belief that a linear polyethylene market if require new capacity in the 90s may lead to a decision to vest in Western Europe, probabat Notre Dame de Gravenchon France.

Exxon has been one of the ain voices in recent years agast the need for new ethylene and polyethylene capacity on the ounds that "capacity creep" at disting plants would see the injustry through until the late 390s.

But Robert Wilson, Exxon Chelical International vice president says linear polyethylene consumption will grow faster than he rest of the polyethylene market and might require a new lant. This is among other possibilities being studied for Exton's polymers business. A \$150,000 ton/year Unipol process llant is being looked at.

Wilson denied reports that Exton Chemical wanted a plant in Western Europe in case its Saudi Arabian partners decided to nationalize the Kemya joint venture at Al Jubail. "Output from Kemta is in our strategic planning for the future" Wilson said, adding that studies were underway concerning a capacity hike at the plant.

Other Saudi joint venture partners report no knowledge of clauses allowing the Arab partners to buy out their foreign partners, observing that this would provide very poor publicity for future investors.

Wilson also denied rumours that Exxon Chemical is planning a new cracker at Antwerp to feed a polyethylene expansion in Europe. "We think we can get our ethylene from existing facilities", he said, noting that the company was adding new furnaces at the Fife ethylene cracker in Scotland and at Notre Dame de Gravenchon and is still examining other such possibilities. It is, however, planning to start shipping ethylene to the US, which will take ethylene out of its European system.

It may be noted that a new cracker for the late 1990s would not be inconsistent with Exxon Chemical's capacity creep theory as outlined earlier this year. Then it was forecast that earlier operating rates would orep to 86-87 per cent in the early 1990s and would not recover to above 90 per cent until late in the century.

Many companies are already believed to be planning forward for this period. In addition to supply and demand reasons, one of the driving factors behind decisions on the next major ethylene investment in Western Europe could be feedstock availability. For this reason it has been believed that it would be the major oil companies that would be the main players in the petrochemical sector at the turn of the century.

"All product areas are coming up short. I would be surprised if a lot of people are not re-evaluating where they are going," Clive

Thompson, a chief executive of BP Chemicals said.

Among long term factors to be considered is availability of types of feedstock other than naphtha.

vill be ripe for feedstock use in the 1990s. Whereas four or five years ago you could expect the LPG window in summer to last two to four months. In 1988 the LPG window could be ten months—the surplus is with us already."

Another factor which he believes will drive investment decisions is technology. There may be no revolution in ethylene technology but older crackers are less and less efficient: "By 1996 we will have a 30 year old petrochemical industry." Thompson observes. His company is itself close to a decision with its partner Bayer on reactivating the 360,000 ton/year number 4 cracker at Erdolchemie in West Germany but information is thin on the company's longer term plans.

Statoil's proposals for a cracker at Zeebrugge, Belgium, revealed last year, were based on availability of North Sea gas and have only been hampered by internal financial problems at the Norwegian company.

Meanwhile Petrofina and Neste's plans are well established for Europe's only current grassroots cracker, the new Finaneste unit at Antwerp. Some people still believe the next unit after that will be an "inclustry cracker" shared between the main players, although reports are firming up on a new unit in southern Europe.

In general European players appear relatively cautious on new building plans for the longer term at this moment in time.

In North America, on the other hand, five new crackers are re-

ported, one in Canada and four in the US by Quantum, Phillips, Dow and Formosa Plastics — although not all plans are firm. Here, though, the view has been expressed by at least one Wall Street observer that cutbacks implemented by the contractors in the recent lean years have left them short of engineering capability to build all planned units. There may be delays in getting equipment such as compressors, for example.

#### ICI PAINTS MOVES INTO SPAIN

ICI has finally secured a slice of the Spanish paints market with the acquisition of Du Pont's powder coatings business. This is a core business for ICI's paints operations and the deal will give the world's biggest coatings maker a 20 per cent share — worth around \$6.9m — of the Spanish powder coatings market. Terms of the deal are not disclosed.

Du Pont manufactures powder coatings at its Benicarlo site south of Barcelona and will continue to supply ICI for a transitional period.

ICI became the world's top paint producer when it acquired US-based Glidden from Hanson Trust in 1986. The group has operations worldwide but has targeted both the Spanish and Italian markets in order to strengthen its European portfolio. ICI is also thought to be interested in acquiring Spanish automotive coatings producer, Barnices Valentine.

Currently the world powder coating market is worth \$850m. In Europe the leading players include DSM, International Paint, Ferro, Becker and ICI.

#### COOKSON BID REBUFF

Cookson group has made a £27.3m (\$44m) bid for Wolstenholme Rink, a Lancashire-based lithographic printing products and metal powders concern. The move comes just a week after Cookson acquired a 6.3 per cent stake in Johnson Matthey for £32.2m.

Although Cookson is not known for making hostile bids, Wolstenholme Rink is reported as describing the offer as most unwelcome. Cookson decided to proceed with the offer after management discussions between the two companies failed to produce recommendations to sell from Wolstenholme.

The two companies have several common businesses and from a strategic point of view Wolstenholme's operations would provide a good fit with Cookson. Cookson is thought to be particularly attracted to Wolstenholme's offset lithographic printing products.

#### **EVC BUYS TPV**

European Vinyls Corp (EVC), the PVC joint venture equally owned by Enichem and ICI, has made its first acquisition. It has acquired a minority shareholding in TPV, an Italian PVC compound manufacturer with a 10 per cent share of the market.

Eni's executive council has approved the deal which is thought to signal its go ahead for Enichem, through EVC, to move further into downstream PVC perhaps involving further acquisitions.

ICI is due to turn over to EVC its existing downstream PVC operation next year.

## CDF CHIMIE FERTILIZERS POISED FOR PROFITS

After years of losses, CdF Chimie's fertilizers business could be set to haul itself out of the red providing the trends seen in the first half of 1988 continue for the next six months. Next year, the division should turn in a profit.

According to CdF Chimie's general manager Jean-Pierre Halbron, the company has been "pursuing a strategy over the last two years that should start bringing in money."

In a recent interview, Halbron said that the initial restructuring moves implemented before the merger of Societe Chimique de la Grande Paroisse and CdF Chimie AZF (of which he is president) some eight months ago will be complete by the year end. The modernization programme designed to improve productivity and cut costs will continue.

The French firm has concentrated production at fewer sites while closing down smaller units and plants not close enough to centres of consumption, Halbron explains.

When all the closures are complete, the workforce will stand at around 3,500.

Grande Paroisse and AZF share production sites at Grand Quevilly near Rouen and Nangis, east of Paris. Production is concentrated at these larger sites. So, at Grand Quevilly, some FF300m (\$49m) has been spent to increase nitric acid and nitrates capacity by 1,500 ton/day, due on stream next January. Various investments totalling FF100m have been made at both this site and at Toulouse, Mazingarbe, Wazier and Montoir.

Despite their links, Grande Pase and AZF are managed as separate entities with their n production and marketing works. This, explained their sident, is in order to maintain ir competitiveness.

Grande Paroisse's main rivals nitrate fertilizers are majors th as Norsk Hydro and BASF, ile AZF operates in competin with small local producers ling complex fertilizers. This why AZF's 800,000 ton/year pacity for complex fertilizers s kept out of the merger.

The GP-AZF venture focuses ainly on nitrate fertilizers. Cacity for phosphate fertilizers s been cut from 2.5m ton to 3m ton. Halbron claims that F ranks second in Europe after orsk Hydro for production of niite fertilizers and fourth in mplex fertilizers. France is rope's second largest consumof liquid nitrate solutions but dF has virtually ceased producon because of intense US cometition where producers have en helped by the weak dollar, S gas prices and low freight tes.

Although Halbron concedes at the fertilizer business combies the problems of a cyclical mmodity business with the unertainties of the agriculture secr, he believes CdF has success. Illy positioned itself as one of e few European companies that ill stay in the fertilizer sector. We are ahead of our competirs in our restructuring proess," he claims.

Together, AZF and GP produ-2.7m ton/year of simple nitrafertilizers and 2m ton/year

complex fertilizers. "We are operating in Europe's largest market for fertilizers. In this business, it is important to be near the consumer. Since the AZF-GP merger we have saved FF50m this year in transport costs."

Halbron maintains that despite the EEC freeze on the development of more arable land, fertilizer consumption will grow by around 2 per cent/year. But he warns of the threat of cheap imports from the US.

To survive in the fertilizer business, a company must be flexible, avoid stock building and fo cus on productivity, Halbron concluded.

Turning to Norsolor, the division which now encompasses all CdF's Chemical's operations, the

Worll, Bombay-400 018.

executive said the aim was to increase productivity. While 500 jobs are to go from the French state-owned firm, the general manager stressed no sites will be shut down:

At Dunkirk, debottlenecking work will increase polyethylene capacity by "a few tens of thousands of tons". A decision still has to be made on whether to debottleneck the ethylene cracker or double capacity, but a partner will be needed if the latter option is selected. And although the petrochemicals market is strong, Halbron said that Norsolor's strategy is to develop downstream rather than upstream.

On the acquisitions front Halbron said the firm is on the look out for an opportunity to bolster its international base.

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It had secured government agreement on the purchase of the Borg-Warner ABS business and had prepared financing for the deal, but plans were thwarted by GEP of the US, which purchased the firm last month. Had it been successful in the bid for Borg-Warner, the French firm would have had to sell off parts of the business to meet its loan repayments.

Now Norsolor is once again seeking the right opportunity but, Halbron pointed out, these are few and far between.

It is hampered by a relatively thin international production base and "our intention is to make acquisitions in Europe and the US," he says. The FF500m capital increase recently announced by Norsolor was to help fund such a purchase.

## EXXON CLEARED IN PE CARTEL CASE

Proceedings have been dropped against Exxon Chemical in the current polyethylene cartel investigations in Europe. The company, along with a number of others, was the subject of proceedings by the EEC commission concerning possible antitrust violations.

It vigorously denied the allegations that it had been involved in any way with an IdPE cartel which the commission alleges operated in Europe during the early eighties.

Exxon Chemical says that after examining documentary evidence filed in response to the commission's statement of objections,

the director general of competition has accepted the company's position and has advised that: "There is no reason for continuing the procedure as far as Exxon Chemical is concerned."

The US firm says it regards the commission's conclusions as an important endorsement of Exxon's policy of strict compliance with applicable laws, wherever it does business.

Robert Wilson, vice president of Exxon Chemical International said: "We try to uphold the highest standards of ethical behaviour in our business and I'm pleased that the commission's findings confirm that."

Wilson was due to appear in person before the commission last week but the company was given the all clear without that being necessary.

It is speculated that in exculpating itself, Exxon Chemical may have "dropped the other firms further in the fertilizer."

## URALITA ACQUIRES ARAGONESAS STAKE

A 33 per cent stake in Spain's Energia e Industrias Aragonesas has been acquired by the Spanish construction materials group Uralita

The investment is reputed to have cost Uralita's owner, the banking and property group March, around Pta10bn (\$73m).

According to both companies the acquisition is "friendly" and has led to March taking a sea on the board of the chemicals and electricity concern.



Aragonesas has been the subect of heavy stock market activity in recent weeks and stateowned oil and petrochemicals group Repsol disclosed it has acquired a 5 per cent stake at an estimated cost of Pta 1.8bn.

It is believed by local sources that one of the shareholders may make a public bid for Aragonesas before the end of the year.

A booming caustic soda market is currently giving Aragonesas record sales. For the 12 months to May, turnover was up 20 percent on the previous year at Pta 8.9bn.

## SCHERING PLANS U.S. FATTY ALCOHOLS HIKE

West Berlin-based Schering has announced plans to invest \$50m in a major expansion of its fatty alcohols business in the U.S. Schering's industrial chemicals arm, Sherex, located in Dublin, Ohio, will expand capacity from a current 7,000 ton/year to as much as 67,000 ton/year.

The project will involve the construction of a new 40,000-60,000 ton/year plant and is expected to come on stream during the first quarter of 1991. Feed-stocks for the facility will include renewable natural oils and fats, such as beef suct, coconut-oil and palm oil.

The Shering group's fat chemicals operations are currently based at Mapelton, Illinois where the production slate includes fatty acids, fatty amines and derivatives, along with glycerines. Basic engineering studies for the project are being carried out by

West German engineering contractor, Lurgi.

In addition to Mapelton the group is also considering two other possible sites where Sherex already has production units. These are at Janesvile, Wisconsin and at Lakeland, Florida.

schering indicates that it will use a new technology in the plant which will be able to exploit natural oils and fats better than petrochemical technologies currently in use. No details about this subject were released, however, "for reasons of competition."

Schering is the second German oleochemicals producer to announce a major capacity expansion for fatty alcohols in the U.S.

where the market is led by consumer giants, Frocter & Gamble and Colgate-Palmolive, both of which use petrochemical feedstocks.

Henkel recently said that it plans to build a 30,000 ton/year fatty alcohols plant in either Texas or the Midwest, using a new process involving one-step hydrogenation of triglycerides. The Dusseldorf group has licensed the technology to West German engineering contractor, Uhde.

Henkel has said that it is aiming to corner 10 per cent of the U.S. fatty alcohols market but Schering declined to be specific on its market share intentions. However, it is understood that it will be hoping for a somewhat larger slice of the cake than Henkel.

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## SOLVAY QUITS BRAZIL PLASTICS SCENE

Belgium's Solvay has completed its withdrawal from the Brazilian plastics business with the sale of its two subsidiaries to local producers. PVC producer Plavigor has been sold to Companhia Prada for an undisclosed

sum, following the sale of Electroflex Industrias Plasticas to Tupy Tecnoplastica in April.

Negotiations were undertaken by Plasticos Plavinil, which already has a major stake in Plavigor. A spokesman at Solvay said this represented the last move in quitting its Brazilian plastics operations to concentrate on chemicals. Solvay's largest Brazilian interest is in Industrias Quimicas Electro Cloro, a chloralkali producer.

## DSM PART-FLOTATION DELAYED

The September date mooted for DSM's partial privatization is unlikely to be met as the Dutch parliament failed to debate a bill on the flotation before adjourning for the summer recess. Parliament does not reconvene until late August.

The share issue, which involves 30 per cent of the Dutch chemicals group, will go ahead after the bill has been approved by both houses of parliament. It is not known how long this will take. The government has received advice on the proposed flotation from a council of state advisory board.

Meanwhile, DSM is continuing its preparations for entry onto the stock exchange. Based on its profits ratio and taking into ac-

count the value of comparable companies, the whole of DSM is estimated to be worth between Df1.2-3bn (\$1-1.5bn). In 1987, DSM had profits of Df1.442m and sales of Df1.9.22bn.

## JOBS CUT AT PHOSPHATE

Benckiser-Knapsack, a 50:50 joint venture of West German firms Benckiser and Hoechst, has announced plans to reduce the workforce at its Ladenburg plant from around 300 to 450.

The company, which had sales of almost DM300m (\$163m) in 1987 and net profit of DM3.5m, said the move is a knock-on effect of the dramatic decline in phosphate sales to the detergent and cleanser industries.

Since 1985, Benckiser-Knapsack has seen sales fall by DIM-80m as a result of a trend to switch to phosphate-free detergents, despite rationalization moves and a shift towards production of phosphate specialities for technical applications and the food sector

## R-P RAISES \$900M FOR ACQUISITIONS

Rhone-Poulenc has received government authorization to raise the capital it needs to finance its acquisitions programme, outlined recently by president Jean-Rene Fourtou.

Many projects are currently "in a delicate phase of negotiations," a company source said.

The state-owned group has raised over \$900m in new capital through the issue of perpetual notes with a number of international banks.

The move makes Rhone-Poulenc France's first nationalized business to have been given the means to raise its capital under the new socialist government

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#### **Chemical Markets Abroad**

## S. MTBE DEMAND CREATES UROPEAN SHORTAGES

European MTBE consumers are acing a product shortfall at a me when it is acknowledged nat the MTBE market is predomantly demand led.

This situation has arisen at a me when producers were expecing to increase output and so rovide a competitive alternative traditional octane boosters.

It has been projected that Euopean demand will be up nearly 0 per cent this year on 1987 igures of 1.1m ton. The elimination of lead as an octane booser is being prioritized by European countries, this is behind MTBE's promising growth rates. An export-oriented 500,000 ton/ ear plant at Sabic's Ibn Zahn complex, which is expected on tream this month, and the 420,-000 ton/year Fos-Sur-Mer, Arco plant due on stream at the end of the year should improve supolies to the European market.

The US market is having a greater influence on the present European MTBE shortage than expected. Soaring demand for octane boosters, on the back of strong demand for the higher grades of gasoline, has seen eworld spot MTBE prices soar to \$290/ton fob. A large amount of Brazilian product which would have found its way into Europe has been diverted to the US.

Contract MTBE prices in the JS are being talked at a ratio of 1.6 times premium gasoline which is currently at \$180/ton: European contract prices are being dragged up to a ratio of 1.45 in response although buyers are reluctant to pay this price.

If the European market continues to tighten and price rises

follow, then sources believe refinery customers will increasingly turn to alternative octane boosters. Toluene spot prices have moved up to \$260/ton fob, largely because of higher US demand for octane giving an indication of the threat to MTBE from alternatives. Although there is little evidence of European gasoline pool customers switching to toluene, the threat is ever present.

In the long term, MTBE industry sources feel that as the European market expands, then the spot market should also increase. Enlarging the spot market should close the wide price gap between contract and spot levels, thus stabilizing the market. Analysts feel a less volatile spot market will convince refinery consumers that MTBE is a reliable product, compared with octane alternatives.

The massive changes that are expected in the European MTBE market in the next few years will mean a new set of rules will have to be developed. With over 1m ton of product coming on stream during the next year, largely aimed at Europe the market will be unrecognizable from its present state.

## INTEROX RAISES H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> OUTPUTS

Interox, the Solvay-Laporte joint venture has increased its hydrogen peroxide capacity to nearly 400,000 ton/year with the start up of plants of associate companies in Brazil and Finland.

Peroxidos do Brazil has completed construction of an 11,000 ton/year peroxide unit at Curitiba while Finnish Peroxides has commissioned a second 15,000 ton/year line at Voikkaa. Capa-

city will be further increased next year when Interox America completes a second 20,000 ton/year peroxide plant at Longview in Washington. Finally, Peroxythai is currently constructing a 10,000 ton/year peroxide line at Mab Ta Phut, south of Bangkok, due on stream in mid 1990.

## CHINESE INCREASE PRODUCTION

China's chemical output jumped by 12 per cent during the first half of 1988 to reach Yen-33bn (\$9bn), according to figures from the country's chemical industry ministry. Despite the problems of raw material and electrical power shortages in China, 14 out of the 16 major chemical products exceeded 50 per cent of the state's annual plan.

Lowest growth was seen in the fertilizer sector-output of 7m ton was 7.6 per cent ahead of the year earlier period but caustic soda, soda ash, methanol and acetic acid all notched up gains of between 10 and 42 per cent.

The ministry warned, however, that higher prices for raw materials had increased the cost of many products and reduced profits for chemical manufacturers leading some enterprises to increase production at the expense of safety, and environment protection.

#### CRACKER RESTART

Carmel Olefin's 130,000 ton/ year ethylene cracker at Haifa in Israel has now restarted after being closed for several weeks due to technical difficulties.

The outage of ethylene interrupted supply to the company's 100,000 ton/year PE plant and a 75,000 ton/year PVC plant operated by Frutarom. Both have now resumed production.

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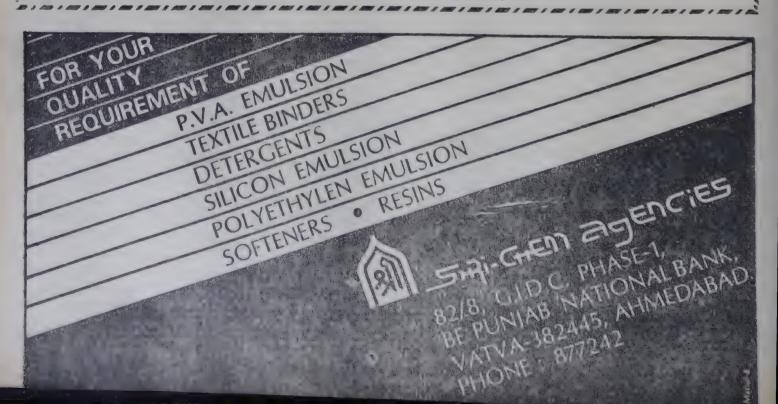
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## News from Japan

#### ITI to Establish Many More andards For Novel Materials

MITI is scheduled to energetiilly establish next fiscal year andards for novel materials in ne with the "Sunrise Project" med at building up the founation of novel-material operaons.

To this end, it plans to form liaison conference for novel naterials, which will comprise producers and elated his move is intended to comsystematize work and ine eeded for establishing the said tandards: such work is now eing independently carried on y, for example, Japan High olymer Center and Japan Fine eramics Association.

conference is The planned upposed to decide on terminoogy, unify test/assessment mehods, establish novel-material tandards and set up a relevant

iata base.

plans to form a MITI also ovel-material standards office standards division vithin the elonging to its Agency of Inlustrial Science and Techno-At present the materialogy. tandards and fiber-standards attached to the ections, both are pushing forward ivision, tandardization for metal-based md high-polymer/fine ceramicspased novel materials, respecively, but they are unable to completely deal with composite cannot be materials — which placed in conventional categories - and their work lacks efficincy.

office will In addition, the industrial groups nelp private eef up test/assessment methods or novel materials.

The MITI agency is actively promoting standardization for and four items of the Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS) have been established for high-polymers and fine ceramics, respectively. It is believed that several ten more standards need to be newly established along with commercialisation of novel materials.

#### L-LDPE Makers Building And **Expanding Plants**

Mitsubishi Petrochemical Co. Ltd. is to expand the capacity of its 80,000 — t/y L-LDPE (linear low-density polyethylene) plant to 100,000 t/y.

Having adopted Union Carbide Corporation (UCC; U.S.)'s unipol process, the company has been expanding sales and increasing production of L-LDPE.

Although suyply of LDPE is insufficient throughout the world, L-LDPE is in even shorter supply than LDPE.

Mitsubishi Petrochemical, the largest LDPE manufacturer in Japan, has been examining expansion of L-LDPE production. A supply of raw-material ethylene has now been secured, so the company has decided to increase L-LDPE production.

L-LDPE demand increased product sharply because the can be formed into thin films and extremely strong.

Consequently, Japanse LDPE manufacturers have been proceeding with construction/expansion plans for L-LDPE

Nippon Unicar has increased L-LDPE production. HDPE maconcurrently nufacturers are manufacturing L-LDPE. Some creasing L-LDPE production by removing the bottlenecks their plants have had.

In particular, shortage of raw material ethylene is preventing L-LDPE manufacturers from increasing L-LDPE production.

L-LDPE Thus, only those manufacturers who are able to secure an ethylene supply can increase L-LDPE production.

#### 3 Phenol Manufacturers **Expanding Plants**

Mitsui Petrochemical Industries, Ltd., Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals, Inc., and Japan Phenol Co. have successively mapped out plant enlargement plans on a scrap-and-build basis to solve their plants the bottlenecks have.

Petrochemical Indus-Mitsui tries, Ltd., is planning to increase the production capacity of its phenol plant by 30% (slightly less than 40,000 t./yr.) by the end of 1990 and as the first step, is considering raising it by 10% within 1989.

Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals will expand the capacity of its phenol plant by 20,-30,000 t./yr. with completion scheduled for next spring and Japan Phenol will raise its phenol plant's production capacity by 30,000 t./yr. within this year.

The three companies that, since the expansion of their phenol plants will be on a scrap-and-build basis for solving the bottlenecks of their plants, the plant-and equipment investment required is small, and problems such as declining demand and increase in imported products in future will be solved by lowering the operation rate so that no sharp in

#### **New Developments from Japan**

Unique Multilayered Coating Of Different Materials Possible

Nippon Steel Corpn., the world's largest steelmaker, has developed a method enabling continuous multilayered coating of ceramics and metals on a substrate in a high-level vacuum condition (10<sup>-10</sup>— <sup>-1</sup> Hg). This is said to be a world first.

This has come about from the combination of three different coating methods — plasma CVD (chemical vapor deposition), ion-plating and sputtering. With the new method, it is possible to easily select a particular coating material from many different materials to satisfy a specific requirement and it is also possible to produce a composite coating, the company explains.

It hopes the new process will be applied to outer coating of construction materials, side protectors of cars and electrical appliances etc., using stainless steel as a base. It is operating an 8-t/m pilot plant at its Hikari factory and plans to expand capacity to a commercial scale if demand rises sufficiently.

## Insulating Film For Multiwiring Of VLSIs Jointly Developed

NEC Corp. and Chisso Corp. have jointly developed a polyimide film suitable for multilayer printing, which is indispensable to the development of very large scale integrations (VLSIs) of the next generation.

The film is produced through chemical bonding of polyimide resin and siloxane. It has good compatibility with inorganic insulating films including siliconnitride film. And it also has a low rate of thermal expansion The two firms envisage applying the new product to bipolar ICs as a first step. They claim that potential applications of the product are 16-megabit DRAMs and logic LSIs having several hundred thousand gates.

Development of VLSIs including 16-megabit DRAMs calls for linking of fine elements by means of a complicated wiring system. One of the promising linking methods is multilayer wiring, in which circuit wires are piled up in several layers with insulating films separating them.

Interlayer insulating films serve to ease unevenness resulting from wiring formed upon a film, which is put under the insulating film itself. When developing VLSIs, to achieve evenness of the insulating film is of the utmost importance.

#### New Toshiba Lab Unveils Superconductivity Breakthroughs

Toshiba Corporation announced that researchers from its new advanced research laboratory have achieved three breakthroughs in the field of high-temperature superconducting ceramic materials.

The breakthroughs, which were announced by laboratory Senior Manager A. Kasami and Senior Researcher J. Yoshida, enabled Toshiba to fabricate a uniformly flat layer of yttrium barium copper oxide thin film without annealing, and to prevent the super-conducting properties of the surface from deteriorating.

Using these two advances, the Toshiba researchers then created an experimental "tunnel

liquid helium displayed the "superconducting tunneling effect," the flow of electrons across an insulator between two pieces of superconducting material.

In addition, they said they recorded the world's first observation of a large voltage jump, a phenomenon useful in switching devices, using superconducting ceramics.

Although it has been some time since the discovery of high-temperature superconducting ceramics, these materials have proved very difficult to fabricate into electronic devices because the high-temperature annealing process used in their manufacture causes deterioration between the film and substrate.

Also superconducting thin films made using the annealing process, which reaches a temperature of approximately 900°C, have a rough surface that is difficult to join other thin film materials and the superconducting properties of the top part deteriorate due to contact with air and moisture.

The Toshiba researchers said they have developed a new fabrication method, called "multitarget reactive sputtering", which alleviates the need for annealing.

In this method, yttrium, ceramic materials of barium and copper, and metallic copper are targets that are bombarded with an argon-oxygen gas mixture. The argon ions are excited by electrical energy, which strikes atoms from the target and forms layers of thin films up to 700 billionths of a meter onto substrates preheated to 560°C.

The resulting thin film which superconducts at 80 degrees Kalvin (minus 193°C) and con-

cts a current of roughly 1 llion amperes per ntimeter, has a dislocation om formation within 3% givg it a mirror like smoothness. In order to prevent the surce of the thin film from losg its superconducting propers and thus making the juncon with other materials imssible, the researchers added layer of silver to the surface r stability.

The silver layer was formed the superconducting thin lm through vacuum evaporation, after which it was annealed at 500°C while being supplied with oxygen. This creates a liver/silver-oxide layer that revents oxygen from escaping from the thin film.

The Toshiba researchers said ney confirmed the "proximity ffect" in the silver layer that the silver exhibited superconducting effects even though layer is not a superconducting naterial.

The experimental tunnel juntion fabricated by the Toshiba esearchers uses lead, a low-emperature super-conductor, which requires cooling with litud helium. However, it did tisplay the tunneling effect, which is a great step toward the realisation of high-speed superconducting switching transistors.

Kasami said the development f practical devices based on superconducting ceramics is still 0 yrs. off with atleast five more rears required to gather basic lata on interface characteristics that can be applied toward suture multilayered devices.

He said Toshiba has applied for patents for a device structure with silver in both the U.S. Japan, in addition to patents for the new sputtering equipment in Japan.

#### Kirin Brewery Establishes Production Technology For Synthetic Seeds

Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. recently succeeded in cultivating F1 hybrids, produced by means of synthetic-seed technology, of both celery and lettuce, in association with Plant Genetics Inc. of Davis, California, the U.S.

The main technologies applied in the process are: (1) Mass-Production technology for somatic embryos and (2) Encapsulating technology for the embryos. Mass-Production technology for rice somatic embryos has been established as well.

The process of cultivating F1 hybrid vegetables is as follows. First, somatic embryos of celery, or adventitious shoots of lettuce, are mass-produced from an explant source, which is a part of an F1 hybrid, by means of micropropagation in a small tank. Secondly, these embryos or shoots are directly transferred to a greenhouse and grown until they are plantlets, and these are then transplanted to undergo hydroponic culture or soil culture. In the other method, these embryos and shoots are grown until they are plantlets after encapsulation.

This is the first successful example in the world of accomplishing cultivation on this scale of F1 hybrids of celery and lettuce, from which it is considered difficult to produce F1 hybrids.

The mass-production technology for somatic embryos of rice applied here, as with celery and lettuce is also a world first. This technology has been licensed to Nursery Technology Co. Ltd., who will produce the rice tissue-culture plantlets on a commercial basis, using it as core technology.

These technologies were all developed in the process of R & D on synthetic-seed production technology. It will be possible to commercially produce with outstanding efficiency F1 hybrids, for which it is difficult to mass-produce seeds, and one superior plant in the course of breeding by using this massproduction technology for somatic embryos and adventitious The improvement in encapsulation technology is a big step forward in producing synthetic seeds for practical use.

From now on Kirin Brewery and Plant Genetics will individually continue R & D on:
(1) Commercialisation of synthetic seeds and seedlings by reducing costs, (2) Development of synthetic seeds which can be sown directly in the fields and (3) enlarging the ranging of plant species to which the synthetic-seed technology can be applied.

#### Radiosensitizer For Cancer Treatment Jointly Pioneered

Pola Cosmetics Co. and Kayaku Co., have jointly developed RK-28 hypoxic radiosensitizer designed to improve the efficayc of radiotherapy for cancer treatment.

The new product - 1 - (4, hydroxy - 2 butynoxymethyl) - 2 nitroimidazole is a new type water-soluble compound that will be subjected to phase-I clinical tests this fall.

After it is orally administered to patients, its concentration within their blood reaches a peak level in 30 minutes and it enters hypoxic cells existing in middle and deep parts of car-

cinoma, thereby improving their sensitivity to radioactive rays.

Radiotherapy is capable of producing the desired effect on the upper part of carcinoma in the presence of oxygen but cannot do so with the hypoxic middle and deep parts. Even if it temporarily shrinks carcinoma, cancer cells in the middle part often becomes active again and begin to propagate.

The two companies have obtained sufficient data on the effect of the new product by conducting preclinical trials using animal cells. The product is quickly metabolized and excreted from the human body, so there is no safety problem with it.

Conventional radiotherapy has a drawback in that carcinoma often returns because when radiation of radioactive rays exceeds the tolerable level, it has to be suspended before the carcinoma is completely removed. In addition, it also has such side effects as falling-out of a large amount of hair and destruction of normal cells. The new product is expected to overcome such disadvantages.

#### Production Approval For Recombinant Erythropoietin Seen Being Sought

Sankyo Co. and Kirin Brewery Co. are scheduled to jointly apply to the Ministry of Health and Welfare for production approval for erythropoietin (EPO) before the end of the year. They have conducted clinical tests on the product—erythropoiesis-stimulating factor—since the year before last.

They plan to call on the ministry to aprove EPO as a remedy for renal anaemia. As a follow-up step, they will request it to authorize expansion of EPO application to blood production for patients who have undergone or are to undergo surgical operations.

Potential application of the product is limited to a cure for renal anaemia but the two companies are striving to expand it to the said field. If it is successfully expanded, the market concerned will markedly widen.

The targeted EPO is a recombinant product jointly developed by Kirin Brewery and Amgen (U.S.). The U.S. company has obtained a process patent covering the same product and has applied to the U.S. authorities for production approval for the product itself.

There are, however, patent troubles between the company and Genetics Institute (U.S.) which has a product patent on EPO and has tied up with Chugai Pharmaceutical Co.

In Japan, Toyobo and Chugai Pharmaceutical are also conducting clinical trials on EPO but they are lagging behind Sankyo and Kirin Brewery.

#### Titanium Alloy Applied To Artificial Teeth Base

Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., together with Sankin Industry Co., an Osaka-based producer of dental materials — has developed a titanium-applied artificial teeth base using superplasticity processing technology. Sankin is scheduled to start marketing the product this fall,

with approval already obtained from the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The new product is light-weight, free from metallic odor and has strong corrosion resistance and good compatibility with the living tissues of the human body. It is possible to precisely adjust the product to the palate: the gap between the product and the palate is 80 microns, much smaller than the gap in the case of conventional artificial teeth bases.

The new teeth base is produced by heating 0.5 mm - thick titanium alloy sheet (titanium 90%; aluminium, 6% and vanadium, 4%) to 850-900°C (superplasticity temperature and forming the resultant product by means of argon-gas The superplasticity pressure. processing technology concerned has been employed for matitanium-alloy nufacture of parts of airplanes but the two companies are the first to utilize it for the production of consumer products.

MMA resin and cobalt-chromium/nickel-chromium alloys have been used as artificial teeth bases but they have drawbacks in thickness, low thermal conductivity and elution of nickel, which may cause allergy. Cast titanium bases are partly employed but often have pinholes, which tend to hold drugs and result in breakage of the bases themselves.

Japan's annual demand for artificial teeth bases reaches 3 million pieces. It is projected to reach 7 million pieces along with the increase in the number of aged people.

## MARKET INFORMATION

#### Solvents Come Down

CL and BPL have started releas-Xylene and Benzene with the rethe prices have come down by 3/- per litra. Due to non-availabiof ready goods PVA (173) and Go-

hsenol (GH-17) the prices have gone up by Rs. 5/- per kg. Rangolite (German) is ruling Rs. 90/- per kg and Sodium Alginate Rs. 160/- per kg.

Dyes Intermediate section MPD is

We cannot guarantee the accuracy of the prices published in CHEMI-CAL WEEKLY as they are based only on the enquiries made by our correspondent — and, as such they are not FIRM PRICES as between a buyer and seller. The prices are published only with a view to giving some ideas of market conditions.

The prices are inclusive of Excise and Maharashtra Sales Tax.

still in short supply even Tobias Acid Sulpho Tobias Acid and Sulphanilic Acid are tight.

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nonium sulphate ,	2.00	Boric acid (Tech.)	22.00	Camphor (Indian)	82.00
nonlum phosphate (Mono)	14.50	Bisphenol-A	71+ST	Cresylic acid	50 00
nonlum phosphate (Di)	12 00	Butyl carbitol	48.00	Cream of Tartar (Tech.)	70.00
nonium carbonate (DI)	17 00	Caustic soda (Flakes)	9 20	Citric acid (Belgium) (Resale)	43.00
monium bicarbonate	4 75	Caustic soda (Solid)	8.00	Citric acid (Indian) (Resale)	42.50
monium chloride	3.00	Caustic soda (Lye)	7.00	Copper sulphate	21.00
monium nitrate	3 50	Calcium chlorida 70% (solid)	3 25	Chromic acid	48.00
anic white powder	11 00	Calcium chloride 75-80%		Cyanuric chloride	120 00
ylamide (Resale)	88.00	(fused)	3 60		280 00
ium carbonate	00 9	Calcium chloride 36%		Cobalt oxide	280 00
sching powder (33% CI)	4.00	(Anhydrous)	* 00	Carbitol .	60+ST

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(Anhydrous)	16.00	Sodium sulphide 50-52%	44 L CT	Benzyl chloride	34.00
Glue flakes	8.45	(Flakes)	11+ST	Benzo trichloride	16.00
	6.75	Sodium sulphide 58-60%		Benzoyl chloride	22.00
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Gohsenol GH-17	41,50+ST	Sodium sulphide pure (Flake	s) 12.25	Chloroform	25.00
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Lead Acetate (Tech)	15.50+ST	Soda Ash (Imp.)	3.50	Diacetone Diethyl Oxalate	34.00
a		Sodium bicarbonate	5.25	Diethyl Oxalate	_
Magnesium chloride (Crysta	1, 1.00	Sodium bisulphite	4.50	Diethylene glycol (DE	52.00
Menthol crystal (Flakes) 185	5+Ex,+ST	Sodium silicate	3.00	Dioctyl Phthalate	56.00
	5+Ex.+ST	Sodium acetate	6.00	Diallyl Phthalate	28.00
		Sodium alginate	160+ST	Dimethyl Phthalate	52.00
Magnesium carbonate (Japa		Titanium Dioxide (Anatase)	55+ST	Dioctyl Adipate	42.00
Magnesium carbonate (India	n) 15.00	Titanium Dioxide		Dibutyl Adipate	15.00
Maleic Anhydride (per kg)	55.00	(Rutile — RCR <sub>2</sub> )	70+ST	Dipentene	
(Resale	10500.00	Tartaric acid (Crystal)	94.00	Dimethylamine 40%	12.00
Mercury (75 lbs.)	90.00	Trisodium phosphate	4.80	Dimethylamine 60%	14.00
Nickel chloride		Thiourea	· 78+ST	Ethyl Acetate	19.00
	ale) 22.00	Urea (Tech)	2.75	Ethyl Acrylate	54.00
Peppermint oil (Rectified) 90		Zinc Dust	30.00	Ethylene Dichlorida	11.00
Potassium carbonate (Indian		Vacuum salt	1.00	Ethylene Glycol	45+ST
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(Resale)		SOLVENIS	Per kg.	Isopropyl Alcohol	21.00
Polyvinyl alcohol (No. 208	) 150.00	Acetic Acid (Glacial) (Resale	17.00	Iso Butyl Alcohol	28.00
Paraformaldehyde (Resale)	20+ST	Acetic Anhydride (Resal	e) 25.00	·	(Resale) 30.00
Phthalic anhydride 36%		Acetone (Resa	e) 16.00	Monoethanolamine	(Resale) 52.00
(Resal	le) 24.00	Acipic Acid	55+ST	Melamine	50+ST
Pentaerythritol (Resa		Aceto Acetanilide	50.00	Methyl Ethyl Ketone	55.00
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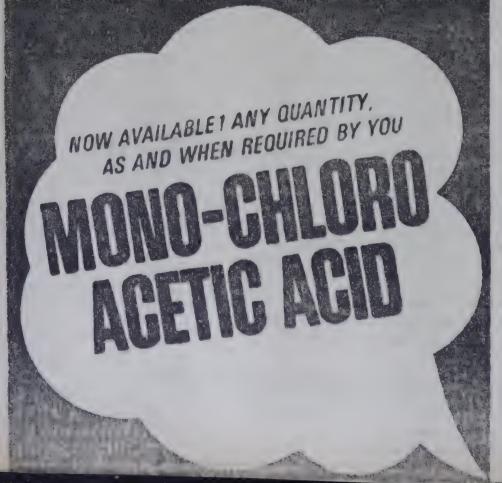
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# MAGNESIUM SULPHATE

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## PURCHASE & SALES EXCHANGE

345, Samuel Street, BOMBAY-400 003.

Cable: DIXITCO, Bombay-3 Telephones: 327129/341105-6837582

ESTD.: 1955

## Bombay dyes market

(Prices as on 11th August 1988)

ACID COLOUR	Por Kg.	Brill, Violet Extra	126.40 86.60	Scarlet RR Rubine 3B	214.8 223.0
		blue 2B	170.50	Rubine CB	364.9
Acid Violet 4BS	143.00	Blue G	188.25	Blue GL	318.9
Acid Maroon V	110.00	Sky Bue FB	147.00	Blue BGF	636.5
Acid Orange II	77.80	Copper Blue GR	114.60	Navy Blue RF	270.4
Acid Orange IIY	63.05	Fast Greenish Blue GL	116.10	Brown 3REL	200.4
Acid Red A	107.25	Developed Black BT		Black GEL	324.2
Crosein Scarlet MOO	155.00	Blue NB-2B	300.20	Dark Brown 8B	317.4
Acid Scarlet 3R	99.90	Blue NB-2BC	185.30	Dark Brown sb	311.7
Acid Red 38N	135.00	Developed Black NB-GHB	185.30		
Acid Red R2R	132.00	Green B	111.65	BASE COLOURS	Per K
Acid Red RS	88 00	Green NB-B	188.25		
Acid Green V	<b>230</b> .00	Green 2B-N	188.25	Fast Yellow GC	80.2
Acid Patent Blue As	<b>25</b> 0.00	Brown MR	154.40	Fast Orange GC	135.4
Acid Coomasi Blue	200.00	Brown CN	107.25	Fast Scarlet R	166.9
Acid Yellow 5GN	65.00	Golden Brown G	140.35	Fast Scarlet RC	126.6
Acid Red PG	<b>85</b> .00	Catechin G	120.50	Fast Scarlet RCR	99.0
Acid Red GRS	78.00	Omega Tan	126.40	Fast Scarlet G	121.6
Acid Black 10 BX	121.95	Catechin GS	102.80	Fast Scarlet GN	91.5
Acid Black BX	98.40	Black E Hly Conc.	142.60	Fast Scarlet GG	72.7
Acid Black Wax	135.50	Black E Extra Hly. Conc.	142.60	Fast Scarlet GGS	72.7
Procinil Yellow GS		Black NB-ER Hly. Cone.	310.50	Fast Red B	203 2
(ICI, UK)	265.00			Fast Red RC	119.1
Procinil Red GS (ICI, UK)	<b>53</b> 0.00	DISPERSOL COLOURS	Par Va	Fast Red R Flakes	149.2
Procinil Blue RS (ICI, UK)		DISTERSOL COLOURS	Per Kg.	Fast Red TR	166.8
	, 010.00	Yellow 6G Powder	143.80	Fast Red TR Oil	183.1
Procinil Scarlet G	***	Red B 3B Powder	247.80	Fast Red RL	237.1
(ICI, UK)	600.00	Red B 2B Powder	323.20	Fast Red KB Off	201.9
Procinil Orange G		Red CB Powder		Fast Bordeaux GP	201.9
(ICI, UK)	<b>25</b> 0.00	Red D2B Powder	439.15		
Procinil Rubine (ICI, UK)			477 40	Pagi Carmer Callic	04.0
THE TABLE (LOE, DE)	550.00		477.40	Fast Violet B	
(101, 04)	<b>55</b> 0.00	Violet C 4R	<b>521</b> .90	Fast Violet B	505.6
		Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder	<b>521</b> .90 <b>235</b> . <b>4</b> 5		505.6
DIRECT COLOURS	550.00 For Kg.	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder	521.90 235.45 103.75	Fast Blue B	505.6
DIRECT COLOURS Yellow 3GX		Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25	Fast Violet B	505.6 521.4
DIRECT COLOURS Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH	Per Kg.	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BB NAPHTHOL COLOURS	505.6 521.4 Per Ks
DIRECT COLOURS  Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH	Per Kg. 88.10	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BB  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG	505.6 521.4 Per Ks
DIRECT COLOURS  Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Cona.	Per Kg. 88.10 124.00	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Black BT Powder	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BB NAPHTHOL COLOURS	505.6 521.4 Per Ks
Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Comm. Fast Yellow GS	<b>Fer Kg.</b> 88.10 124.00 141.15	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Black BT Powder Blue BR Powder	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS	505.6 521.4 Per Ks 217.0 143.0
Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Comm. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Black BT Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BD  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW	505.6 521.4 Per K <sub>8</sub> 217.0 143.0 .279.7
Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Black BT Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS	505.6 521.4 Per Ka 217.0 143.0 .279.7
Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue B Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BD  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW	505.6 521.4 Per Ka 217.0 143.0 ,279.7 189.1
Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue B Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BD  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO	505.6 521.4 Per K 217.0 143.6 .279.7 189.1
Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue B Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD	505.6 521.4 Per K 217.0 143.0 .279.7 189.1 195.6 175.3
Vellew 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue BR Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL	505.6 521.4 Per K 217.0 143.0 .279.5 189.1 195.6 175.3
Vellew 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR Red 4B	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue B Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL Yellow FFL	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD	505.6 521.4 Per K 217.0 143.0 .279.3 189.1 195.6 175.3 179.3
Vellew 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Com. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR Red 4B Bordeaux BW	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25 72.55	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Black BT Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL Yellow FFL Gold Yellow GG	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60 259.70	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BD  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL ASTR	505.6 521.4 Per K 217.0 143.0 .279.5 189.1 195.6 175.3 179.3
Vellew 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR Red 4B Bordeaux BW Fast Scarlet 4BS	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25 72.55 169.10	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue BR Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL Yellow FFL Gold Yellow GG Pink REL	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60 259.70 247.00	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL ASTR ASPH	505.6 521.4 Per K 217.0 143.0 .279.1 189.1 195.6 175.3 179.3 279.1
Vellew 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR Red 4B Bordeaux BW Fast Scarlet 4BS Red 12B	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25 72.55 169.10 132.30	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue BR Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL Yellow FFL Gold Yellow GG Pink REL Red REL	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60 259.70 247.00 468.65	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BD  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL ASTR ASPH ASE	505.6 521.4 Per K 217.0 143.0 .279.3 189.1 195.6 175.3 179.3 279.3
Pellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR Red 4B Bordeaux BW Fast Scarlet 4BS Red 12B Bordeaux Hly. Conc.	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25 72.55 169.10 132.30 166.55	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue BR Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL Yellow FFL Gold Yellow GG Pink REL Red REL Red 2B	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60 259.70 247.00 468.65 327.40	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL ASTR ASPH	505.6 521.4 Per K 217.0 143.0 .279.5 189.1 195.6 175.3 279.5 279.5
Pellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR Red 4B Bordeaux BW Fast Scarlet 4BS Red 12B Bordeaux Hly. Conc. Cotton Red N	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25 72.55 169.10 132.30 166.55 170.55	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue BR Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL Yellow FFL Gold Yellow GG Pink REL Red REL Red 2B Red FB	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60 259.70 247.00 468.65 327.40 324.20	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL ASTR ASPH ASE ASE	505.6 521.4 Per K 217.0 143.0 .279.5 189.1 195.6 175.3 279.5 279.5 196.0 184.6
Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR Red 4B Bordeaux BW Fast Scarlet 4BS Red 12B Bordeaux Hly. Conc. Cotton Red N Brill, Fast Helio B	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25 72.55 169.10 132.30 166.55 170.55 194.00	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue BR Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow FFL Gold Yellow GG Pink REL Red 2B Red FB Red Violet FBL	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60 259.70 247.00 468.65 327.40 324.20 469.85	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BD  NAPHTHOL COLOUDS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL ASTR ASPH ASE ASEI ASLB	505.6 521.4 Per K. 217.0 143.0 .279.3 189.1 175.3 179.3 279.3 196.0 184.4 1632.6
Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Conn. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR Red 4B Bordeaux BW Fast Scarlet 4BS Red 12B Bordeaux Hly. Conc. Cotton Red N Brill, Fast Helio B Brill, Fast Helio 2B	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25 72.55 169.10 132.30 166.55 170.55 194.00 117.05	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue BR Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL Yellow FFL Gold Yellow GG Pink REL Red 2B Red FB Red Violet FBL Orange 3R	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60 259.70 247.00 468.65 327.40 324.20 469.85 196.65	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL ASTR ASPH ASE ASEI ASLB ASBT	505.6 521.4 Per K. 217.0 143.6 .279.7 189.1 175.3 179.3 279.7 196.0 184.4 1632.6
Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH Yellow CFG Hly. Comm. Fast Yellow GS Fast Yellow CHRS Viscose Orange A Fast Orange GR Red Dark Tan Red IIR Red 4B Bordeaux BW Fast Scarlet 4BS Red 12B Bordeaux Hly. Comm. Cotton Red N Brill, Fast Helio B Brill, Fast Helio 2B Brill, Fast Helio 2RS	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25 72.55 169.10 132.30 166.55 170.55 194.00 117.05 278.00	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue BR Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL Yellow FFL Gold Yellow GG Pink REL Red 2B Red FB Red Violet FBL Orange 3R Violet 3R	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60 259.70 247.00 468.65 327.40 324.20 469.85 196.65 280.00	Fast Violet B Fast Blue BD  NAPHTHOL COLOUDS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL ASTR ASPH ASE ASEI ASLB	505.6 521.4 Per Kg 217.0 143.0 .279.7 189.1 195.6 175.3 179.3 279.7 279.7 196.0 184.4 1632.6 1817.0
DIRECT COLOURS  Yellow 3GX Gun Yellow RCH Fast Yellow GCH	88.10 124.00 141.15 312.00 111.65 95.45 166.15 133.75 96.90 78.25 72.55 169.10 132.30 166.55 170.55 194.00 117.05 278.00 297.00	Violet C 4R Blue BG Powder Blue BN Powder Blue D 2R Powder Navy BT Powder Blue B 2G Powder Blue BR Powder Blue BR Powder Yellow 7GL Yellow 5RX Yellow 3G Yellow Yellow AL Yellow Brown REL Yellow FFL Gold Yellow GG Pink REL Red 2B Red FB Red Violet FBL Orange 3R	521.90 235.45 103.75 476.25 243.90 210.20 182.60 390.20 338.60 218.80 367.25 140.00 135.30 247.50 463.60 259.70 247.00 468.65 327.40 324.20 469.85 196.65	Fast Violet B Fast Blue B  NAPHTHOL COLOURS  ASG AS ASSW ABBS ASBO ASD ASOL ASTR ASPH ASE ASEI ASLB ASBT	94.0 505.6 521.4 Per K <sub>8</sub> 217.0 143.0 .279.7 189.1 195.6 175.3 179.3 279.7 279.7 196.0 184.4 1632.6 1817.0 143.0 397.7

ROCION COLOURS	Per Kg.	Navy Blue M 3R	310.95	Blue R Conc. Pdr. Fine	577.65
ROCION COLOCAS	201 201	Brill, Blue MR	331.70	Blue RR Supra Powder	629.35
olden Yellow HR	181.80	Brill. Blue M RX	214.20	Blue Conc. Powder	378.55
rill Yellow H4G	117.85	Brill. Blue M-G	382.30	Brill. Blue 2R Hly. Conc. Brill. Blue 2R Supra Disp.	115.85
upra Yellow H-8GP	168.55	Blue M 4GD	344.60	Dark Blue 2R Powder Fine	389.25
-		Navy Blue M RB	318.75 197.85	Blue BC Supra Disp.	359.40
rill. Yellow HE6G	166.95	Turquoise M-G Brill Blue M GX	302.50	Jade Green XBN Powder Fine	438.20
ellow H-E4R	276.05	Blue 3R Acra Powder	718.20	Jade Green XBN Acra	
rill. Yellow H7G	\$32.30	Dark Brown H 6R	248.45	Conc. Powder	823.90
ellow M4R	243.95	Cobalt Oxide (per kg.)	285.00	Jade Green 2G Pdr. Fine	419.65
ellow M GR	326.05	Green H 4BD	269.80	Jade Green 2G Ptg. Faste	125.40
rill. Yellow M4G	177.10	Green H-E4Bl	169.80	Jade Green XBN Ptg. Paste	126.00
MII. YEHOW MAG		Red Brown H IF	143.25	Jade Green 2G Supra Disp.	496.00
rill. Yellow M8G	\$32.30	Orange Brown H 23	209.05	Olive Green B Pdr. Fine	399. <b>90</b> 444. <b>30</b>
Tellow M 3R	217.60	Brown M GRN	188.80	Olive D Pdr. Fine Olive Green B Supra Disp.	308.28
Brill. Orange H 2R	241.85	Black H-N	283.35	Jade Green XBN Supra	000.20
Brill. Red H 7B	157.93	SULFUR COLOURS	Per Kg.	Disp. (N)	327.30
Brill. Orange M 2R	313.15	Navy Blue	99.85	Olive OMW Pdr. Fine	698.55
	169.45	Green G	198.55	Olive OMW Supra Disp	538.05
Brill, Red H 8B		Black Grains Extra	63.05	Olive R. Pdr. Fine	422.96
Brill. Scarlet H RN	245.05	Black Grains OG	64.55	Olive D Supra Disp.	361.70
Supra Red H-3BP	179.30	Black GXE Conc.	61 60	Olive R Supra Disp.	363. <b>90</b> 193.00
Brill, Red H-F3B	243.45	Black GXE	52.75	Olive D. Ptg. Paste	199.10
Brill Magenta HB	167.00	Black GXR	61.60	Olive Green B. Ptg. Paste Olive Green B Acra Conc.	542.75
	98.90	Black Grains 800	54.20	Olive R Acra Conc.	840.00
Brill, Red M 5B	90,50	Black EXR Grains	64.55	Olive Green B Acra Conc.	542.75
Brill. Red M 8B	173.70	Black EXR Grains 800	51.25	Brown R Pdr. Fine	835.00
Brill. Pink MB	<b>137</b> .10	VAT COLOURS (ICI)	Per Kg.	Brown G. Pdr. Fine	795.00
Brill. Magenta MB	121.55		673.15	Brown R Pdr. Fine	659.75
	180.20	Yellow 5G Powder Fine	439.30	Dark Brown 3R Pdr Fine	685.00
Brill, Purple H-3R		Yellow 5G Supra Disperse Yellow 5G Acra Con.	628.75	Brown G. Supra Disp.	449.9n
Brill. Purple H-7R	175.40	Yellow 3R Powder	588.85	Brown 2G Supra Disp	554.00
Navy Blue H 3R	298.50	Gold Orange 3G Pdr. Fine		Brown R Supra Disp	422.95
Brill. Blue H-GR	866.55	Brill. Orange 6R Pdr. Fine		Brown BR Powder	719.00
Brill, Blue H 5G	173.10	Gold Orange 3G Supra Disp		Dark Brown 3R Ptg Paste	217.15
Blue H 5R	283.85	Brill. Orange 6RX Powder	394.30	Dark Brown 3R Supra Disp.	414.55
	178.70	Brill. Red 3B Pdr. Fine	997.80	Brown G Acra Conc	733.95
Brill. Blue H 7G		Brill, Red 3B Supra Disp.	713.20	Brown R Acra Conc.	786.00
Brill, Blue H 7RX	858.13	Brill Purple 4R Conc. Pd		Grey M. Powder Fine	768.80
Turquoise HA	234.45	Brill. Purple 3R Acra Pow		Grey M. Supra Disp.	585.48
Supra Blue H-3RP	835.70	Brill. Purple 2R Hly Conc.		Blue BC Acra Conc. Pdr. Fine	762.70
Supra Turquoise H 207	181.50	Brill Purple 4R Supra Din		Direct Black AC Supra Disp.	330.35
	805.80	Brill Purple 2R Acra Con-	542.15	Direct Black AC Pdr. Fine	474.76
Blue H-ERD		Blue BC Conc. Pdr. Fine	522.50	Direct Black CH Supra Disp	393.20
Navy Blue H ER	258.60	Blue BC Acra Conc. Pdr. F	ine 762.78	Direct ACD Ptg. Paste	217.15
Blue H 5RX	269.30	Dide Do IIII			

#### Delhi Market

DELHI: AUGUST 12 (NNS) - Menthol prices spurted sharply by Rs. 17/ 30 per kg. in the Delhi chemicals market during last week, on account of heavy demand shown by stockists and exporters and fall in arrivals from UP, reports NNS. Citric acid also advanced by Rs. 50/100 while caustic soda flakes and tartaric acid resumed lower on fall in demand. Turnover was moderate.

Menthol medium and bold jumped up sharply by Rs. 30 each at Rs. 255 and Rs. 265 per kg. respectively, dua to restricted arrivals from Uttar Pradesh along with brisk purchasing made by stockists and exporters. Menthol flakes also shot up by Rs. 17 at Rs. 222 per kg on stocking tendency, Mentha oil moved up by Rs. 10 at Rs. 175.

Camphor thal jumped up by Rs. 2 at Rs. 102 due to tight supply from manufacturers along with heavy demand for ensuing festivals. Camphor powder improved by Re, one at Rs. 88. Acetic acid giacial firmed up by rupee one at Rs. 14/14.50 on poor inflow.

Citric acid advanced by Rs 50/100 at Rs. 2100/2400 on reduced supply from Bombay Dyeing. Tartaric acid softened by Rs. 25 at Rs. 6000 per 50 kg. on slack demand due to rains, Caustic soda flakes, however was cheaper by Rs. 2/5 at Rs. 398/400 on easy supply.

Paraffin wax looked up by Rs 10 at Rs 64 per kg on poor supply from Assam due to floods, Ammonia bicarb also moved up by Rs 5 at Rs 135 on brisk buying by bakeries.

Titanium dioxide Anatase and 822 were traded at Rs 56 and Rs 74 per kg. with support from buyers. Formic acid increase by Rs 10 at Rs 900 (per 50kg.) on sustained demand.

Among dyes and colours, Naphthol AS, ASG, ASBS, ASTR, ASOL, and ASBO prices went up sharply by Rs. 8/14 per kg. caused by hike in its prices by companies. Similarly Black E Conc, Diazo black BT and green 3 and Blue B-2 quoted higher by Rs. 5/8 per kg. on due to hike in its prices by manufacturers. Sky Blue FB hardened from Rs. 200,15 to Rs. 213, and Basic Auramine sold higher at Rs. 110 against Rs. 100. Basic Malachite green, however, dropped by Rs. 20 at Rs. 140/165. Acid orange sold higher at Rs. 45/88 per kg, on good enquiries by consumers.

Formic acid (per kg)	26.00
Formaldehyde (per kg)	8.00
Hydrogen Peroxide (per kg) 2	7-29.00
Calcium Carbonate	1000.00
(per tonne)	
Acid Slurry Soft (per kg)	
Acid Slurry Hard (oer kg)	32.00
Phosphoric Acid (per 50 kg)	
Pot. Nitrate (per quintal) 900-	1200.00
Pot. Permanganate (per 50 kg)	2300.00
Sod. Bichromate (per 50 kg) 1050-1	150.00
Tri-Sod. Phosphate	
(per 50 kg) 350-	380.00
Titanium Dioxide Anatase	1
(per k.g)	56.00
Titanium RC-822 (per kg)	74.00
Zinc Oxide (per mt) 35,000-42,	.000.00
Phenol Carbolic Acid	
(per kg)	33.0C
Carbon Tetrachlorida (per kg)	20.00
Chloroform (per kg)	28.00
Sodium Sulphate (per 50 kg) 160-	170.00
Naphthalene Balls (per 50 kg) 1	350.00
DYES & COLOURS	per kg)

#### (DELHI MARKET RATES AS ON AUGUST 12, 1988)

Ammonia Bicarb (per 25 Mercury (per flask) Soda ash (per bag) Ammonium chloride	kg) 135.00 11,000.00 270.300.00
(per 50 kg) Caustic soda solid Caustic soda flakes	125-180.00 No Stock
Citric acid (per 50 kg) 2 Stable Bleaching Powder	398-400.00
Shriram (per 25 kg) Stable Bleaching Puwder (per 25 kg)	95.00 KCI 86.00
Stable Bleaching Powder MODI (per 25 kg.) 8od. Bicarbonate	88.00
(per 50 kg) Sod. Hydro Sulphite (per kg)	<b>265</b> -275.00 <b>38</b> - <b>4</b> 3.00
Rangolite (per kg)	50-70.00

Boric acid Technical	
(per 50 kg)	1015.00
Paraffin wax (per 50 kg	640.00
Tartaric acid (per 50 kg)	6,000.00
Borax Granular (per 50	kg) 550.00
Borax Crystal (per 50 k	g) 575.00
Sodium Nitrate (per 50	
Sodium Nitrite (per 50 kg	) 675-700.00
Camphor Powder (per k	
Camphor Thal (per kg)	102.00
Menthol Medium (per k	g) 265.00
Menthol Flakes (per kg)	222.00
Menthol Bold (per kg)	265.00
Glycerine (per kg)	47-48.00
Sodium Silicate	
(per quintal)	200-250.00
Hexamine (per kg)	42.00
Acetic Acid Glacial	
(per kg)	14-14.50
Copper Sulphate	
(per quintal)	2100-2300.00

Naphthol ASG	249.00
Naphthol ASBS	210.00
Naphthol ASTR	320.00
Naphthol ASOL	202.00
Naphthol ASBO	220.00
DIRECT DYES	. (per kg
Black E. Conc.	110-160.00
Diazo Black MT	105-130.00
Green B	100-127.00
Blue 2-B	60-92.00
Sky Blue FB	213.00
Basic Auramine	55-110.00
Basic Rhodamine	220-320.00
Basic Methylene Blue	-92-130.00
Basic Violet	142-180.00
Basic Malachite Green	140-165.00

Naphthol AS

Acid Orange

158.00

45-88.00

#### **Madras Market**

There was good activity during the eek. Acetic acid prices spurted on e news that the demand from PTA anufacturer is good and this has realted in a shortage. Hydros prices ased on good supplies from manufacrers. Petroleum solvents like benz-

be under short supply. The continued strike et Hindustan Lever Bombay unit has affected Glycerine availability substantially and the prices are ruling high. In the Dyes section vat prices have gone up on reported shortage due

ne, toluene and xylene continues to to exports.		
(MADRAS MARKET RATE	AS ON AUGUST 13, 1988)	
cetic Acid Glacial (per kg) 18.75	Hydrosulphite of Soda —  TCPL (per ½g) 39.00	
(per MT) 1900.00	Hydrosulphite of Soda — IDI (per kg) 42.00	
mmonium Bicarbonate (per 25 kg) 130.00	Hydrosulphite of Soda — BASF (per kg) 45.00	
cid Slurry Soft (per kg) 27.00	Hydrogen Peroxide (per kg) 30.00	
	Hyflo Supercell (per kg) 19.50	
mmonium Chloride SPIC (per MT) 2,600.00	Magnesium Carbonate (per kg) 18.00	
	Potassium Bichromate (per kg) 26.00	
(per 25 kg bags) 110.00	Phosphoric Acid (per kg) 19.50	
orax Granular (per 50 kg) / 650.00	Phthalic Anhydride (per kg) 22.00	
austic Soda Flakes — Mettur	Pentaerythritol (per kg) 52.00	
Chemicals (per MT) 8,600.00	Paraffin Wax (per kg) 13.50	
austic Soda Flakes — Andhra	Oxalic Acid (per kg) 25.00	
Sugars (per MT) 8,600.00	Soda Ash — TAC	
itric Acid (per kg) 45.00	(per 75 kg bags) 320.00	
opper Sulphate (per 50 kg) 1000.00	Soda Asn — TATA (per 75 kg bags) 325.00	
resylic Acid 98/99%	Sodium Cyanide Indian	
(per kg) 87+ED	(per kg) 55.00	
1eta Cresol 40/42% (per kg) 39 + ED	Sodium Cyanide (Degussa) (per kg) 85.00	
ara Cresol 80/85% (per kg) 67+ED	Sodium Bichromata (per kg) 18.00	
cormic Acid (per kg) 27.00	Sodium Bicarbonate	
cormaldehyde (per kg) 9.00	(per 50 kg bags) 290.00 Sodium Nitrate	
Wearing (per kg) 52.00	(per 50 kg bags) 450.00	

	109
Sodium Nitrite (per 50 kg bags)	750.00
	4500.00
Sociali Silicato (pos in )	
Sodium Sulphate (per MT)	3500.00
Sodium Sulphide Flakes (per MT)	12000.00
Sodium Bisulphite (per 50 kg	g) 190.00
Stearic Acid (per kg)	30.00
Trisodium Phosphate	
(per 50 kg)	390.00
Titanium Dioxide — Indian TTP — (per kg)	48.00
Titanium Dioxide — Indian (Rutile) (per kg)	58.00
Urea Tech (per MT)	2800.00
Zinc Oxide (per kg)	34.00
Zinc Chloride Powder (per kg)	13.00
Zinc Sulphate (per MT)	5,000.00
Di-octyl Phthalate (per kg)	42.00
Di-butyl Phthalate (per kg)	42.00
Hexamine (per kg)	34.00
SOLVENTS	
Acetone — HOCL — (per k	
Acetone - NOCIL - (per l	
Diacetone (per kg)	29.00
Diethylene Glycol (par kg)	48.00
Isopropyi Alcohol (per kg)	22.00
Butanol (per kg)	34.00
CALL (DOT 1)	7 1 1 / 13(3)

Acetone — HOCL — (per kg)	19.00
Acetone - NOCIL - (per kg)	22.00
Diacetone (per kg)	29.00
Diethylene Glycol (par kg)	48.00
Isopropyi Alcohol (per kg)	22.00
Butanol (per kg)	34.00
Benzene — SAIL — (per lit.)	17.00
Toluene — SAIL — (per lit.)	
Xylene - SAIL - (per lit.)	16.00
Phonoi - HOCL (per kg)	29.00
Turpentine (per lit.)	16.50
Trichloroethylene — MCIC —	
(ner kg)	23.50

Carbon Tetra Chlorida (per kg) 16.00

Methyl Ethyl Ketone (per kg) 48.00

Methylene Chloride (per kg)

26.00

25.00

11.00

52.00

42.00

23.00

23.50

35.00

(per kg)

Chloroform (per kg)

Methanol (per kg)

Collosolve (per kg)

Sorbitol (per kg)

Butyl Acetaite (per kg)

Ethyl Acetate (per kg)

Triethanolamine (per kg)

## MATERIALS IMPORTED

BOMBAY (From 22.2.38 to 29.2.88)

ACETIC ACID: From France: Shivalik Bimetal Controls Ltd., 60 lbs., Rs. 1,496.

ACETONE: From Canada: D & H Secheron Electrodes Pvt. Ltd., 496 ltrs., Rs. 16,111.

ACRYLAMIDE: From Japan: RSA Polymers, 3,000 kgs., Rs. 64.267.

ALBENDAZOLE: From China: Wockhardt Veterinary Pvt. Ltd., 300 kgs., Rs. 2,46,357.

ALDEHYDE C-16: From Switzerland: Naarden (India) Ltd., 100 kgs., Rs. 23,297.

ALDEHYDE C-18: From Switzerland: Naarden (India) Ltd., 50 kgs., Rs. 14,726.

ALPHA ACETO GAMMA BUTYRO LACTONE: From Japan: Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., 15,000 kgs., Rs. 13,68,421

D-ALPHA PHENYL GLYCINE CHLORIDE HYDROCHLORIDE: From Italy: Lyka Labs Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 6,51,167; From Netherlands: Gujarat Lyka Organics Ltd., 5,775 kgs., Rs. 18,80,244; From Switzerland: Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., 5,460 kgs., Rs. 18,36,942.

ALUMINIUM OXIDE SYNTHE-TIC: From Japan: Grindwell Norton Ltd., 5,000 kgs., Rs. 1,79,-213.

ANILINE OIL: From FRG: Cibatul Ltd., 18,400 kgs., Rs. 2,43,670; Jindal Dye Intermediate P. Ltd., 11.73 mts., Rs. 1,55,339; From Saudi Arabia: Grover Overseas P. Ltd., 12,960 kgs., Rs. 1,51,437; From UK: Mihir Chemicals, 6,240 kgs., Rs. 72,914.

ANISALDEHYDE: From Switzerland: The Bharat Indl. Corporation, 9 kgs., Rs. 4,670.

CHEMICALS: AROMATIC From France: Dept. of Atomic Energy, 20 kgs., Rs. 8,827; Oriental Aromatics, 100 kgs., Rs. 28,855; 200 kgs., Rs. 24,045; 360 kgs., Rs. 70,116; From Korea: Dome Bell Investment Pvt. Ltd., 125 kgs., Rs. 19,293; From Netherlands: S. H. Kelkar & Co., Ltd., 10 kgs., Rs. 11,531; From Switzerland: International Health Care Prod., 1,520 kgs., Rs. 5,74 Mysorewala Sugandhi Dhoop Factory, 51 kgs., Rs. 30,-195; From UK: Shah Agarbathi & Co., 292 kgs., Rs. 69,112.

ATRAZINE TECHNICAL: From UK: Rallis India Ltd., 19,995 kgs., Rs. 9,32,145.

BENZYL CYANIDE: From Denmark: FDC Pvt. Ltd., 2,000 kgs., 79.198.

BISPHENOL A: From Brazil: Zenith Ltd., 20 Mts., Rs. 2,82,872; From Netherlands: National Organic Chemical Ind. Ltd., 10 mts., Rs. 2,08,887.

RUTACHLOR TECH: From Finland: Newsprint Trading & Sales Corpn., 34,920 Lbs., Rs. 6,16,590; From USA: Herbicides (India) Ltd., 15,839.6 kgs., Rs. 6,07,523.

BUTYL ACETATE: From Japan: G.C. Rescroth Inds., Ltd., 240 Lts., Rs. 14.532.

BUTYL ACRYLATE: From FRG: BASF India Ltd., 5,940 kgs, Rs. 1,11,748.

BUTYLATED HYDROXY ANI-SOLE: From Japan: Tata Exports Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 90,883.

BUTYLATED HYDROXY ANI-SOLE (FOOD GRADE): From Japan: 250 kgs., Rs. 52,957. BUTYL LACTATE: From UK: Ami Essence & Perfumers, 20 kgs., Rs. 6,885.

N-BUTYL METHACRYLATE: From Japan: Asian Paints India Ltd., 3,060 kgs., Rs. 99,321.

CALCIUM BORATE: From Norway: Viraj Industries, 1,500 Mts., Rs. 46,54,105.

CALCIUM CARBIDE: From Poland: Industrial Oxygen Co. Pvt. Ltd., 1,89,500 kgs., Rs. 10,89,-871.

CALCIUM FLUORIDE: From Japan: Sylvania & Laxman Ltd., 400 kgs., Rs. 30,078.

CALCIUM FLUORO CHLORO PHOSPHATE: From UK: Moon Tin Containers Pvt. Ltd., 14,800 kgs., Rs. 7,55,936.

CALCIUM SILICIDE: From France: Greaves Foseco Ltd., 2,975 kgs., Rs. 60,268; From FRG: Steel Strips Ltd., 2 Mts., Rs. 33,178.

CAPROLACTUM: From Belgium: NRC Ltd., 166.5 Mt., Rs. 40.85,633; From Italy: The Baroda Rayon Corporation Ltd., 311.6 Mts., Rs. 76.46,146; From Netherlands: Jagatjit Cotton Textile Mills Ltd., 2,55,000 kgs., Rs. 62,57,275; From Netherlands: Modi Rubber Ltd., 3,06,000 kgs., Rs. 75,08,731.

CARBOFURAN: From USA: Rallis India Ltd., 9,000 kgs., Rs. 14,71,131.

CAPNAUBA WAX: From Brazil: Everest Paint Industries, 10,-000 kgs., Rs. 1,94,749.

CAUSTIC SODA FLAKES: From Korea: The Standard Mills Co. Ltd., 143 Mts., Rs. 6,91,548; From Netherlands: Hindustan Lever Ltd., 143 Mts., Rs. 6,91,548.

CAUSTIC POTASH FLAKES: From Italy: Indian Dyestuff Inds., Ltd., 119.825 Mts., Rs. 10,37,-664.

CELLULOSE ACETATE: From USA: Hind Filters P. Ltd., 3,900 kgs., Rs. 1,27,701.

CELLULOSE ACETATE PH-HALATE: From FRG: Hoechst Idia Ltd., 400 kgs., Rs. 2,41,-82.

CHLORDANE TECH.: From SA: Pest Control (India) Pvt. td., 2,045.72 kgs., Rs. 1,08,-12.

2-CHLORO 2,6 DIETHYL N BUTOXYMETHYL) ACETANI-IDE: From Korea: Calcem Eleconics P. Ltd., 69,840 Lbs., Rs. 2,33,180; From USA: Monsanto them, of India Ltd., 69,840 Lbs., s, 12,33,180.

CINNAMIC ALDEHYDE: From witzerland: The Bharat Indl. Corporation, 105 kgs., Rs. 21,-59.

CITRIC ACID: From China: Meena Chemical Industries, 20 Mts., Rs. 3,36,266.

COCOAMINE: From UK: Dai chi Karkaria Ltd., 2,028 kgs., ls. 79,234.

2 CYANOPYRAZINE: From ran: JR Brothers, 400 kgs., Rs., 25,058.

CYCLOHEXANONE: From Chia: Hindustan Ciba Geigy Ltd., 44,800., Rs. 14,27,741.

CYCLOHEXYL MERCAPTAN: rom Netherlands: Polyolefins and Ltd., 21,000 kgs., Rs. 7,19,-191.

DELTA TETRADECALACTONE: rom UK: Ami Essence & Perumers, 5 kgs., Rs. 18,563.

DESMOPHEN: From Belgium: seo Templow Insulation P. Ltd., 10.75 Mts., Rs. 1,29,800; Nu-pam Industries, 14.48 Mts., Rs. 1,86,912; From FRG: Tirupatioams Pvt. Ltd., 10.750 Mts., is. 1,29,800.

3,4 DICHLORO ANILINE: From IRG: Bela Plastics, 5,000 kgs., s. 2,81,106.

2,4 DICHLORO BENZOIC CID 99% MIN: From Japan: Tipor Chemicals, 500 kgs., Rs. 3,073.

DICUMYL PEROXIDE: From USA: Ganga Phosphorus & Chemicals Ltd., 10,000 kgs., Rs. 1,62,291.

DICYANDIAMIDE: From FRG: Orex Pharma Pvt. Ltd., 16 Mts., Rs. 3,84,586.

N-N DIETHYL ANILINE: From Japan: Colour Chem. Ltd., 1,080 kgs., Rs. 57,926; M.S. Intermediates, 4,180 kgs., Rs. 2,48,373.

DIETHYL ANILINE: From Japan: M.S. Intermediates, 4,180 kgs., Rs. 2,48,373.

DIETHYL CARBONATE: From France: Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., 3,960 kgs., Rs. 1,73,576.

3,3 DIETHYL 2,4 DIOXOTE-TRA HYDROPYRIDINE: From Switzerland: Roche Products Ltd., 1,600 kgs., Rs. 10,95,064.

DIETHYLENE DIAMINE: From FRG: Fine Chemicals, 4,370 kgs., Rs. 1,25,264.

DIETHYL SULPHATE: From Japan: Advent Dyes and Chemicals, 15,640 kgs., Rs. 2,81,264; PDI Chemicals P. Ltd., 5,060 kgs., 93,125.

DIHYDROMYRCENOL: From France: Oriental Aromatics, 180 kgs., Rs. 19,909.

DI ISOPROPANOLAMINE: From France: National Organic Chemical Ind. Ltd., 10 Mts., Rs. 2,90,453.

DIMETHYLAMINOETHYL AC-RYLATE: From USA: RSA Polymers, 181.44 kgs., Rs. 13,191.

DIMETHYL CARBONATE: From France: Ganesh Medicament Pvt, Ltd., 5,000 kgs., Rs. 1,32,249.

DIMETHYL FORMAMIDE: Japan: Camel Knitting & Textiles Mill, 3,040 kgs., Rs. 43,160; M. J. Exports Pvt. Ltd., 3,230 kgs., Rs. 45,858; From Iran: Paras Trading Co., 4,750 kgs., Rs. 53,037; From Japan: Tata Exports Ltd., 5,890 kgs., Rs. 83,-

Sajjan 623; The Anup Eng. Ltd., Rs. kgs., Rs. 43,160.

DIMETHYL SULPHO:HLO-From Hungary: Precision D Che-Equipments, 7,980 kgs., Rs. 1. 879; From UAE: Balkrishna F Jo-Mills Ltd., 7,480 kgs., Rs. 1,bs. 879; From USA: German Rei dies Ltd., 5,000 kgs., Rs. 1,1L: 253.

DINITRO URTHO TOLL' AMIDE: From France: Tata Exports Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 1,68,-780.

DI OCTYL PHTHALATE: From FRG: Arjun Impex, 15,600 kgs., Rs. 1,62,030; From Italy: Electronic Circuits Ltd., 15,600 kgs., kgs., Rs. 1,62,030.

DI OCTYL TIN OXIDE: From Japan: Gandhi Parekh Investment Corp. Ltd., 1,000 kgs., Rs. 1,09, 839.

DIPHENYL OXIDE TECH: From USA: Pradhan Perfumers, 2,800.98 kgs., Rs. 61,095; Sharvani Pharls. Ltd., 1,077.3 kgs., Rs. 23,498; From FRG: Shika International, 5,000 kgs., Rs. 97,375.

DIVINYL BENZENE: From USA: Henkel Chemicals Ltd., 11,-031.37 kg., Rs. 8,07,778.

EPOXY RESIN: From Japan: Usha Electronics India Pvt. Ltd., 760 kgs., Rs. 68,344.

ETHYL CAPRYLATE: From Switzerland: The Bharat Indl. Corporation, 15 kgs., Rs. 6,190.

ETHYL CELLULOSE: From USA: Ajay Electrical Inds. Ltd., 498.96 kgs., Rs. 76,549; M.S. Patel & Co., 567 kgs., Rs. 75,-456.

N ETHYL CYCLOHEXYLA-MINE: From FRG: Umpatel Rub bers Ltd., 170 kgs., Rs. 11,774.

ETHYLENE GLYCOL MONO ETHER: From FRG: Dura Chemical Corpn. P. Ltd., 15,288 kgs., Rs. 2,16,497.

ETHYL ISO BUTYLATE: From Switzerland: The Bharat Indl. Corp., 15 kgs., Rs. 6,387.

ETHYL LACTATE: From UK: Amj Essence & Perfumers, 20 kgs., Rs. 4,444.

ethyl Vanillin: From France: Rallis India Ltd., 100 kgs., Rs. 27,265; From Switzerland: The Bharat Indl. Corporation, 1,006 kgs., Rs. 2,86,686.

EUGENOL: From Singapore: The Tata Oil Mills Co. Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 1,55,799.

FERRIC OXIDE: From FRG: Cosmo Ferrites Ltd., 20,000 kgs., Rs. 5,80,953.

FORMIC ACID 85%: From FRG: Quality Carpet Traders, 50,995 kgs., Rs. 3,70,103.

FURAZOLIDONE: From Hungary: Seva Enterprises, 16,500 kgs., Rs. 15,79,365.

FURFURYL ALCOHOL: From Belgium: Nirval Keramchemie Pvt. Ltd., 1,680 kgs., Rs. 37,080.

GAMMA DODECALACTONE: From UK: Ami Essence & Perfumers, 5 kgs., Rs. 8,032.

GAMMA FERRIC OXIDE: From USA: Garware Plastics & Folyester Ltd., 9,000 kgs., Rs. 6,45,007.

GERANIO NITRILE: From France: Oriental Aromatics, 360 kgs., Rs. 1,38,501.

GLYCEROL: From Malaysia: Suparna Chem. Pvt. Ltd., 15,000 kgs., Rs. 2,62,911.

GLYOXAL: From FRG: Unique Pharm, Labs., 7.7 Mts., Rs. 79,-177; From Japan: M.K. Warketing, 8 Mts., Rs. 87,378.

GUM ARABIC: From Saudi Arabia: Grover Overseas P. Ltd., 50 kgs., Rs. 8,12,987; From Singapore: Weston Electronics Ltd., 50 kgs., Rs. 8,12,987,

GUM BENZOIN: From Indonesia: Maxim Corporation, 7,500 kgs., Rs. 60,450; R. K. Traders, 2,886 kgs., Rs. 21,807; From

Singapore: Mehta & Sons, 3,926 kgs., Rs. 45,096,

GUM COPAL: From Indonesia: Universal Polymers, 2.482 kgs., Rs. 18,534.

GUM DAMAB: From Indonesia: Mehta & Sons, 7,661 kgs., Rs. 20,851; From Singapore: Gama & Co., 10,500 kgs., Rs. 29,621.

GUM ROSIN: From Hong Kong: L.B. Publishers & Distributors, 49.95 Mts., Rs. 3,07,503.

GUM ROSIN N GRADE: From China: Bhagvati Enterprises, 17, 550 kgs., Rs. 1,13,923.

GUM ROSIN WW GRADE: From China: U.K. Paint Industries, 49.91 Mts., Rs. 3,33,984.

HELIOTROPIN: From Switzerland: The Bharat Indl. Corpn., 9 kgs., Rs. 7,528.

HEMICELLULOSE: From FRG: Hoechst India Ltd., 1,200 kgs., Rs. 7,09,070.

HEXAMINE: From China: F.D. C. Pvt. Ltd., 4 Mts., Rs. 39,729. HEXANOL: From Switzerland; Mysorewala Sugandhit Dhoop Fac. 25 kgs., Rs. 34,976.

HOMOVERATRYLAMINE: From Switzerland: Roche Products Ltd., 400 kgs., Rs. 3,50,260.

HYDROFLUORIC ACID SOL: From Australia: The Raymond Woollen Mills Ltd., 600 Lbs., Rs. 14,032.

HYDROXYETHYL CELLULOSE: From Netherlands; PDI Chemicals P. Ltd., 1,000 kgs., Rs. 51,933.

IODINE CRUDE: From Belgium; Usan Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., 1,700 kgs., Rs. 3,99,494: From Japan: Eskay Fine Chemicals, 500 kgs., Rs. 1,28,209; From Taiwan; Able Industries 500 kgs., Rs. 1,14,577.

IONOMER RESIN: From USA: Essel Packaging Ltd., 1,134 kgs., Rs. 32,458.

ISOBORNYL ACETATE: From FRG: Dujodwala Udyog Ltd., 9.6 Mits., Rs. 1,45,080.

ISO CAMPHYL CYCLOHEXA-NOL: From Switzerland: Naarden India Ltd., 50 kgs., Rs. 11,868.

ISO HEXENYL TETRA HYDRO BENZALDEHYDE: From France: Oriental Aromatics., 200 kgs., Rs. 36,068.

ISO OCTYL THIO GLYCO-LATE: From France: Gandhi Parekh Investment Corp. Ltd., 14,-820 kgs., Rs. 6,59,822.

pan: Resins & Plastics Ltd., 3,000 kgs., Rs. 42,844

ISOPHYTOL: From Italy: Yusu-fi Optical Ind. 5100 kgs., Rs. 10,-07, 704.

PDI Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 24,344.

LACTOSE: From Netherlands: Seventilal & Co., 18,000 kgs Rs, 1,86,841.

LAURYL ALCOHOL ETHOXY-LATE: From FRG: Galaxy Chemicals 15,840 kgs., Rs. 2,96,143.

LAURYL ALCOHOL ETHOXY-LATE: From FRG: Galaxy Chemicals, 15,840 kgs., Rs. 2,96,143.

LIGNIN ALDEHYDE: From UK: Mihir Chemicals 219 kgs., Rs. 20,756. From USA: Bharat Heavy Elect. Ltd., 219 kgs., Rs. 20,756

Naarden India Ltd., 50 kgs., Rs. 14,945.

Netherlands: Sandoz (India) Ltd., 1,360.77 kgs., Rs. 62,904. From USA: Five Star Engineers, 2,200 lbs., Rs. 46,129.

LYRAL: From Netherlands: Hindustan Lever Ltd., 1,200 kgs., Rs. 3,63,351.

L-LYSINE MONO HCL: From Japan: Avet Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., 1,000 kgs., Rs. 38,950; From Japan: Mangalaya Trading & In-

stment., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 1,18,-67; From Japan: Salvi Chemi-Is Inds., 1,500 kgs., Rs. 56,-77; Sarabhai International Ltd., 000 kgs., Rs. 59,723.

DL MALIC ACID: From FRG: rasim Indus. Ltd., 75.35 Mts., s. 5,90,737; From Japan: Satam Rubber Inds. 75.35 Mts., s. 5,90,737.

MALONITRIDE HOMOVERA-RYLAMINE: From Switzerland: oche Products Ltd., 100 kgs., ss. 24,659.

MANGANESE DIOXIDE: From USA: Central Electronics Ltd., 21.8 Mts., Rs. 5,98.618.

PARAQUAT DICHLORIDE: From Taiwan: Herbicides (India) atd., 5,000 kgs., Rs. 2,53,174.

METHACRYLIC ACID: From Japan: PDI Chemicals P. Ltd., 950 kgs., Rs. 27,974.

METHANOL: From Malaysia: The State Trading Corpn., 2023. 088 Mts., Rs. 49,40,485.

DL METHIONINE: From USA: S. K. Chemical Inds. 3,000 kgs., Rs. 1,16,849.

METHYL CELLULOSE: From UK: E. Merck India Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 42,030.

4-METHYL 1 (3 CHLORO PROPYL) PIPERAZINE HCL: From UK: May & Baker (1) Ltd., 330 kgs., Rs. 1,52,220.

N-METHYL PIPERAZINE: From Sweden: Industrial Trading Co. 1,190 kgs., Rs. 1,82,740.

N-METHYL TAURINE 55 SO-DIUM SALT: From USA: Azofen Ltd., 816.45 kgs., Rs. 30,638.

N-METHYL PIPERAZINE: From FRG: Burroughs Wellcome India Ltd., 3,400 kgs., Rs. 5,45,655.

MICROCRYSTALLINE WAX.
From FRG: Samir Dyechem: 4995 kgs., Rs. 48,638; Enkay India
Rubber Co. Pvt. Ltd., 2,688 kgs.,
Rs. 55,838; From Spain: United
Chem. & Soap Mills 991 kgs.,
Rs. 14,500.

MOLYBDENUM DISULFHIDE: From FRG: Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 2,37, 472.

MONO ETHYLENE GLYCOL: From Saudi Arabia: Century Enka Ltd., 1029,992 Mts., Rs. 68. 86,910; Orkay Silk Mills Ltd., 1029.992 Mts., Rs. 53,22,311; Reliance Inds. Ltd., 3089.96 Mts., Rs. 2,61,34,292.

MORPHOLINE: From USA: Polyolefins Inds. Ltd., 15.023 Mts., Rs. 3,53,036; The Universal Traffic Co., 15,023 kgs., Rs. 3,58,887.

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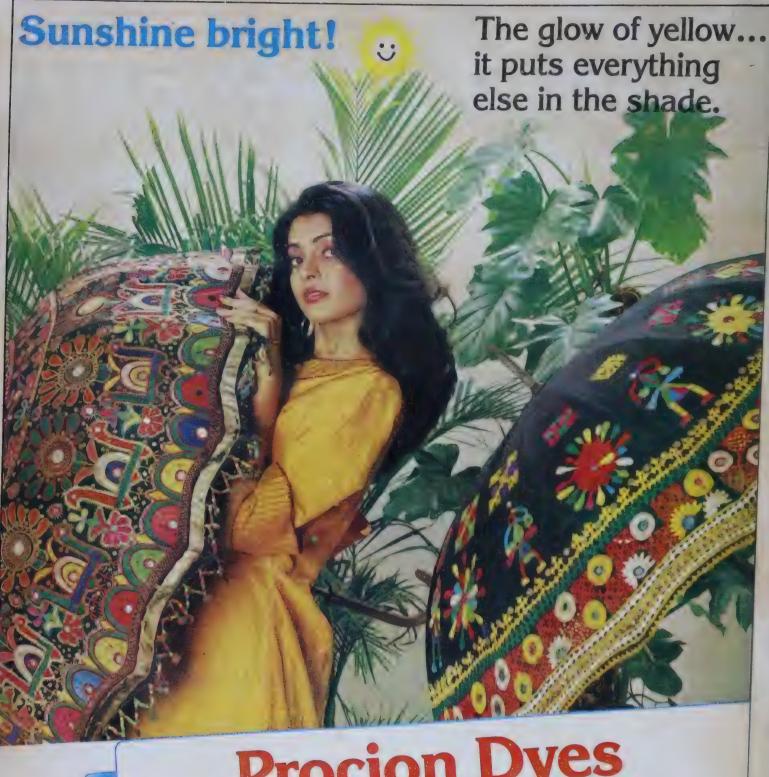
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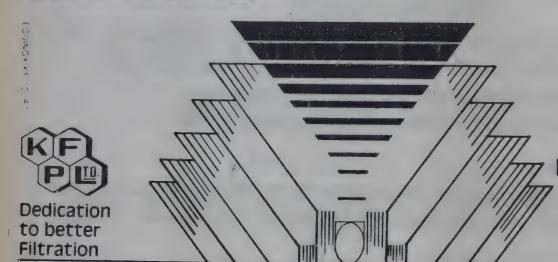
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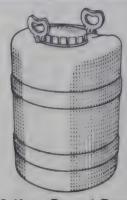
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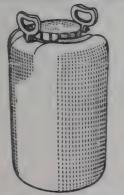
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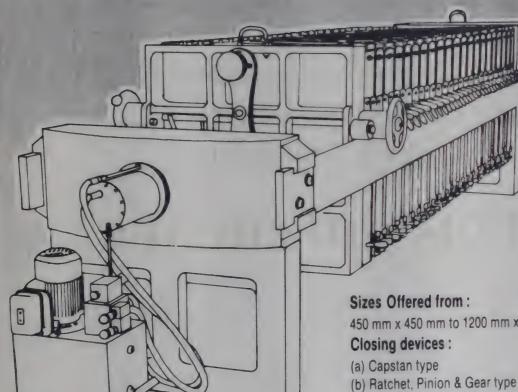
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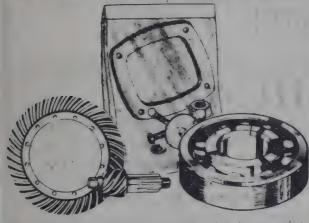
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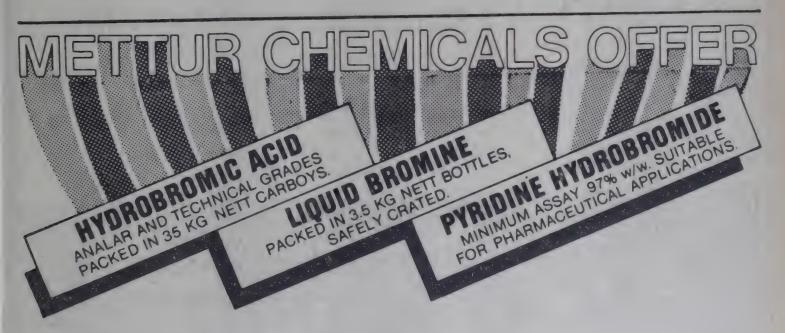
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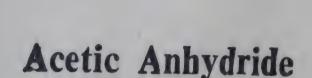
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# CHEMICAL WEEKLY

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No. 51

# Antartica -- The Continent under Siege?

Antartica has remained an object of scientific curiosity for centuries. Its vastness, geophysical isolation and climatic reculiarities offer unique opportunities in the pursuit of science. An exclusive natural phenomenon of ice cover differentiates antartica from other continents. Practically, the entire area is covered by a massive ice sheet of more than 2000 meters in hickness. The close relationship between this titanic glacier, the atmosphere, the ocean and the continential thrust as well as the proven existence of large mineral wealth make Antartica an area of great future hope.

Antartica has been described as a pulsating continent and also a white cold desert. It is best described as a treeless, riverless, almost lifeless desert, windiest and highest continent which is the home of blizzards and the penguins.

India's Antartica research activities commenced in 1981, with the launching of first scientific expedition during 1981-82. The objective of the Indian Antartica programme has been to foster and promote scientific studies. India is the only developing Asian country to have established a permanent station in Antartica. China has set up its station in 1984-85 and acquired consultatic status in October 1985 along with Uruguay.

Till now seven annual expeditions have been successfully launched from India. The latest and Seventh Indian expedition to Antartica operating from the permanent Indian Station Dakshin Gangotri had set for itself lofty and specific goals.

During the Sixth expedition, the geological survey had undertaken the survey of a mountain range (Petermann Mastiff), which revealed interesting mineralisation and deposits of ilmenite cores with a purity of 93%. During the seventh expedition, the survey work has been extended to another 1000 sq. km. of the range.

Another objective was the extension of geophysical investigations to adjacent areas and to collect samples for a study of the geothermal, geochronological and paleomagnetic properties.

In the field of geomagnetism, investigations were continued on the physics of magnetospheric storms in Antartica. One

Indian scientist walked through the winter last year to obtain continuous data for the Gangotri area. Besides continuing these observations, the Seventh expedition monitored optical, atmospheric high energy cosmic ray emissions.

Oceanography, naturally enough, claimed major attention. Exploration of the distribution, availability, variability of living organisms -- particularly krill, squid and fish claimed top priority. Biomass of krill, its growth rate, distribution pattern, migration and ecology came in for close scrutiny. Physical and chemical characteristics of the Antartica ocean by themselves offer a vast scope for intensive study.

During the Sixth expedition a major initiative had been taken in the study of blue green algae, existing in the ice free area of specific mountain range for e.g. Shirmacher and Wohltabl. Preliminary investigations revealed that about 80% of the samples collected were "no-fixing" blue green algae. The Seventh expedition, apart from further pursuing these studies explored the mechanism of the release of fixed nitrogen in the immediate surroundings. This will help to examine the influence on the growth of non-nitrogen fixing bacteria. An underwater survey of Priyadarshni lake (MAITRI) revealed the presence of thick algal mat consisting mainly of unicellural chlorophyceans. The investigations are likely to unravel the interrelation of blue green algae and other living forms thereby unravelling one of the fundamental mysteries of nature.

Studies on evolution, coal acclamatisation mechanism, physiology of energy fluxes, food chain dynamics and biomass production in glacial, limentic oasis and littoral ecosystems of Antartica will all come in for intensive probe.

The Antartica polar climate is the most rigorous in the world; factors of diverse order contribute to it emphasising the features of uncertainty, cold and extreme dryness. Low temperature caused by the frequent high winds interacting with the ice sheet create the most inhospitable landscape that one could possible imagine. The vagories of the Antartica climate are still a challenge to the weathermen.

The dramatic depletion of ozone layer in Antartica reported in 1985 has aroused intense concern regarding the future con-

sequence to the global environment. A permanent geomagnetic laboratory has been set up at Dakshin Gangotri for conducting year-round studies, which include continuous monitoring of magnetic fields fluctuations. Five ozone sonde ascents were successfully taken during January-February 1987, besides the continuous recording of surface ozone content.

The Seventh expedition initiated the construction of a new station with associated series. The installation of these permanent facilities have given a fillip to the utilization of wind and solar energy.

A twelve bladed horizontal axis wind generator was assembled and commissioned and the performance evaluated in the vicinity of the MAITRI field camp in Antartica. Testing was done from 26th January 1987 to February 1987. A maximum output of about 1.5 Kw at a wind speed of 28 knots from the southeast direction was recorded.

Two solar photovoltaic models in series were installed on the north facing roof top of the MAITRI camp with connections for the battery bank for charging. The two solar photovoltaic models left behind at Dakshin Gangotri station were monitored. The installation was found to be quite intact and the performance of the module satisfactory.

The sun shines as much on Antartica as it does on the equator. Yet for four months each year, there is perpetual darkness. In Antartica the ecosystem is so fragile, it can taken 10 years for a footprint in the moss to disappear.

By all means, Antartica called a 'Super Continent' by Dr. Arun Paulekar who led the largest Indian expedition, is a treasure trove of limitless natural resources. Seas surrounding Antartica teem with biological bounty particularly dominated by krill, a shrimp like crustacean rich in protein. As researchers see it, krill has the potential to become one of the world's major fisheries. It is estimated that about 40-50 million tonnes of krill can be harvested from Antartica seas.

Further, it is expected that about 50 mineral deposits can be located in the ice free area of the continent. In 1985, the German research vessel 'Polar Stern' found "unambigous evidence of active petroleum sources" near the northern tip of Antartica. And the USA on its part has estimated that offshore oil reserves of Antartica must run into tens of billions of barrels.

Researchers are also confident of unearthing unlimited quantities of coal from beneath the icy crust of Antartica. What's more, Antartica's ice cap contains 70% of the world store of fresh water, pointing out to the possibility of towing iceberg to produce fresh water in dry areas.

The immediate threat to Antartica's ecocystem stems from the intensive krill fishing resorted to by countries like the USSR and Japan. Since krill supports all the higher species in the marine food chain of Antartica, depletion of krill stock is fraught with perilous consequences for the marine organisms of the continent. Krill is the major food ource of five whale species,

three species of seal and 23 species of fish and squid a many birds.

Continuous krill fishing can disturb the eco-conditions region and many species here are highly vulnerable to co ditions different from those in which they have been evolve Ecologists are worried that disappearance of krill can spell disaster for a variety of bird and fish species in the region. An the vast, undisturbed wildlife reserve that Antartica is, can we become a graveyard of many rare marine organisms.

Another possible danger to the eco-stability of Antartic comes from the possibility of industrially advanced nation taking to oil drilling in the region. For since more than a decad now, offshore seismic surveys have been carried out b Norway, West Germany, the Soviet Union, France, Australia Japan and the United States. The severe cold, strong wind and moving ice-bergs can lead to accidents of massive magnitude during the drilling.

Moreover, oil spills can harm the extensive breeding colonies of penguins and seals and even affect the polar ice caps exerting a disturbing impact on the global climate and sea level

Antartica is crucial to sustaining the biological productivity in the Indian Ocean, besides maintaining the global sea level and overall climate the world over. Air circulation pattern, temperature fluctuations and solar radiation in other parts of the world is directly affected by the rate of snow melting in Antartica. Antartica thus serves as a great natural lab, containing a wealth of information about the planet earth.

Interestingly the ice crust of Antartica can provide a point to the level of chemical pollution affecting the world in toto. Researchers in Antartica have been able to acquire an insight into the global levels of DDT pollution and the way it is transported from the analysis of the ice sheets of Antartica. Similarly, Antartica provides a special situation for monitoring the changes in the global atmopshere, triggered off by the fluctuations in carbon dioxide level. Further, the clarity of Antartica's atmosphere has been of considerable significance in studying the extent of ozone depletion. As it is, ozone layer serves as a protective shield of earth by shutting off the entry of dangerous ultra violet rays. Research done from Antartica has indicated a dramatic fall in the global ozone layer due to increased chemical pollution. Today this coldest and windiest continent, mostly bereft of life, is under seige.

Fired with greed for space and resources, man is leaving no stone unturned to exploit the vast treasure trove of resources hidden beneath the icy crust of Antartica. Not content with laying waste the inhabitable part of the globe, man is now all set to pollute the pristine pure environment of Antartica in the name of scientific exploration.

Certainly, it is high time Antartica is freed from too much of human interference to maintain its vital importance to the rest of the world as a natural laboratory par excellence.

-- T.P.S. RAJAN

# CHEMARENA

#### L. VENKITESWARAN

#### **Antimalarials**

Artemisa annua also known as quinghao, is a herbed in China for over 2000 years to combat malarial ver. Research on its active constituents has been ing on in some countries including India but US has ne ahead and developed a derivative which is claimed be more effective. Clinical trials are under way. Chise researchers had isolated the active principle—temisin or Quinghaosu QHS which is a novel sequippene lactone with a peroxy group. Catalytic hydronation has given an epoxide without antimalarial clivity but when reduced with borohydride the lactone oup becomes a lactol termed dihydro artemisining QHS which is more active. The WHO has taken interst in the work and in 1985 the ethyl ether of DQHS has been developed and the alpha and beta forms separ-

ated. The ß-ether called "artether" is being promoted for treatment of high risk cases including cerebral malaria.

Malaria is the Number One infectious disease with about 210 million cases per year by the *plasmodium faleiparum*. The control of mosquitoes has not been effective over a long period due to resistance development to drugs and no effective vaccine yet in sight. The view is that malaria will need a variety of drug types to supplement the present chloroquine, mefloquine and pyrazinamide and the new artether may be a good addition. But costs of treatment are not yet clear and this artether requires to be injected into a large muscle. It is to be hoped that the ongoing work in India will lead to better alternatives.

# Homeopathy Creates a Sensation

Ambrose Bierce called homeopathy the humorist of e medical profession and the centenary of the founder ahneman was celebrated recently. Homeopathy has ontinued to be practised extensively and claims thouands of adherents who swear by the sugar-coated pills hich are said to contain micro or ultra-micro quantities factive remedial salts. Now that molecular biology has eached great heights and the action of biochemicals t the molecular level are analysed and explained, one ould perhaps explain the effects and way of action of ne ultra-micro dosage of some of the homeopathic anaceas. But it is now reported that even a molecule factive ingredient is not required and that water retains n "image or memory" of the absent medicament molcule and be effective. What is more, this claim which irrational and unbelievable is published in the most authoritative and prestigious science journal, Nature of ondon, even if Lancet would not have looked at it.

The sensational research paper is by Jacques Benrenist of France's National Institute of Health and Medcal Research (INSERM) and a dozen co-workers there and in Israel, Italy and Canada -- an international effort. The group used a simple test that detects whether a cerain type of white blood cell has been simulated by an

antibody to the cell's surface protein. When stimulated, the cell can no longer be stained and visualised under the microscope. It was found that antibody concentration of 10-120 Mole and even lower could evoke this biological response. But if you compute the number of molecules present there can be only one at 10-14M dilution and the antibody cannot even be detected at 10-9M level. The effect was seen only in agitated "solution" of this dilution of a non-existent molecule. Heating, freezing or ultrasonification, suppressed the activity at this dilution but not of more concentrated ones. The speculation if not a conclusion is that of a molecular reorganisation of water. The findings were first reported to the paper two years back and the incredulous referees got repetitions done in five other laboratories around the world. The research work has leaked out to the press and excited the homeopaths who claim extremely small doses of certain drugs effect cures but Nature's editor suggests "wait and see" attitude before the belief in non-existent drug molecules.

The antibody has obviously retained its biological effect even in such dilutions at which no molecule could be present and perhaps it left an imprint on the water to take over. The results strike at the roots of two cen-

turies of observation and rationalisation of physical phenomena. "Nature" hopes that its readers may think of explanations of this result. We talk of a fifth sense or sixth sense and telepathy and the effects of planets from millions of miles across totally empty space. Can expect some similar work with air instead of water show the remarkable behaviour of non-existent still ulant molecules or unseen hands in action.

# Algae for Motor Fuels

Department of Energy's Solary Energy Research Institute (SERI) at Golden, Colorado, USA claims to have developed cultures of microalgae and their conversion to liquid fuels. Work on this subject has continued in spite of serious cuts in the grants and has now reached a positive phase. Microalgae are single celled primitive plant types of 1 to 200 micrometers but they double their mass 3 to 5 times in a day. In ponds under proper conditions 12.5 kgm. can be produced per square meter per year and they can be cultivated in saline water as well. More important is that the cells can hold 70% of their mass as lipids which can be converted to diesel and motor fuels. The research work has screened over 3000 strains and selected 10 to 25 strains. Chaetoceros and Navicula strains showed most promise, tolerating temperatures of 10 to 35°C and salinity of 10 to 85 millimhos/cu.m. Growth rates of 35 gm/m/day have been achieved with 66% content of lipids in laboratory and 40% outdoors. It is said that after a growth phase the cells are transferred to a second medium where reduced

nitrogen and silica leads to lipid accumulation. The lipid are triglycerides as well as phospho and glycolipids at some hydrocarbons are also formed. The next study would be to genetically alter the selected strains of higher growth rates. For scale-up, an open pond system is being constructed in an area where 5000 kcal/moday of sunlight is available. The pond is of earthern line of clay and crushed rock into a liner of chlorinated poyethylene. The scale up is being undertaken by Microbial products of Fairfield, Calif. The problem of carbodioxide supply has to be tackled and then the harvesting which accounts for 25% of the cost. Suitable flow culants comprising cationic polymers are useful.

The lipids contain 10% oxygen which needs to be removed to get the useful hydrocarbon fuels and zer lite catalysts are said to be promising. But commercial success is some way off from the speculation of microalgae supplying 150 to 400 bbl of liquid fuel per acroper year at perhaps \$ 1.60 to 2.00 per US gallon.

# Hydrogen Peroxide

We had referred (See CHEMICAL WEEKLY, June 21, 1988, p. 35) earlier to the new process developed by Du Pont of USA for making hydrogen peroxide directly from hydrogen and oxygen. The Patent 4,681,751 granted for this proces gives some details though rather limited. The most attractive features and claims are the absence of any organic component and therefore no risks of explosion and the much higher content of hydrogen peroxide in the reacted solution with reduced costs of recovery. The catalyst is palladium on adsorbent carbon which is prepared by contacting the powdered carbon at room temperature for five minutes with a solution prepared from 1 mgm. of PdCl<sub>2</sub> per gm. of 0.1 N HCl at a ratio of 6 mgm. carbon per gm of solution. The PD content is preferably above 0.5%. The ratio of Pd-carbon at 2% gives the best results. Adsorbent carbon grades like Alfa USP, Supelco, Carbosieve and others are suitable. The carbon can be prepared from sugars and cellulose in nitrogen by stages to 900-1000°C and activation afterwards. The process is carried out preferably at 0 to 25°C or lower if necessary. Pressures of 500 to 2500 psig. are preferred and higher

pressures yield higher concentration of product. Bes results were at 400 psig. and inlet ratio of  $O_2/H_2$  at 1:1 Continuous operation is contemplated (and perhaps carried out by now) at 1000 psig. with 50 psig. of  $H_2$  and 950 psig. of oxygen partial pressure, about 1 mgm. of 5% Pd/c per gm. of reaction mix, about 0.5 m phosphoric acid and -10 to +25°C with vigorous liquid-gases contact.

In batch tests the aqueous acid/halide solution was prepared by dissolving 0.103 gm. of NaBr and 4.90 gm. of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in a litre of water and dilution to 2 litres. The reaction mix was prepared from 150 gm. of commercial (Alfa) 5% pd/cand 35 ml. of the above acid/halide solution. The reaction was carried out in an autoclave with a liner and outside cooling. The reaction mix was introduced after argon purge and stirred by impeller at 250 rpm. before introduction of the gas mix. About 15% solution of hydrogen peroxide was obtained. The details of recovery procedure are not given and these may be an important part of commercial know-how. It is expected that this new process could be of importance for the future.

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#### Benzene shortage hits chemicals exports

The chemical industry defaulted over Rs. 20 crores worth of export commitments in recent months because of non-availability of benzene, according to industry sources at Bombay.

Three Vapi-based units (Chemical Organics, Nascent Chemicals and Chemiesynth) with export orders to the tune of Rs. 40 to 50 lakhs a month have been starved of benzene for the last one-and-a-half months. Against a requirement of 500 tonnes per month, these units received only 30 tonnes during the last 45 days.

These and a host of other small-scale units also supply dye intermediates to large firms like Atul, Atic and Sandoz, which goes into finished export goods. The total loss would easily exceed Rs. 20 crores, according to industry estimates.

Small-scale units, who have been lifting benzene from the refineries for years, complain that the requirements of the two big LAB producers (Reliance Industries and Tamilnadu Petroproducts) have taken precedence over theirs. Together the two LAB giants consume around 4,000 tonnes of benzene every month.

Ironically, the bulk of benzene is being diverted into this nonpriority industry, which is currently facing a glut. Refineries have expressed their inability to reduce supplies to LAB units because of contractual obligations.

"This is unfortunate because refineries had spurned our offers to enter into contracts in the past, because we are not big consumers," a small-scale manufacturer said. "When they entered into confracts with LAB units, they should have anticipated the current scarcity of the material," he said.

it is true that RIL and TPL have invested crores of rupees in their plants, he said. "But a 10 to 15 per cent cut in their supplies would not seriously affect them. It would have served our needs and helped fulfil our export commitments," a Gujarat-based manufacturer said.

At stake is not merely few crores of rupees worth exports but India's reputation as a reliable supplier. India is rated higher than China in fulfilling its commitments. More significantly, this is the golden era of export of dyes and dye intermediates. China is no longer dumping goods and western countries are opting out what they regard as low-tech, polluting industry.

Plant shut downs and temporary shortages are part of the chemical industry scenario. What is worrying chemical units is the distribution policy which ensures priority supply to a few units at the cost of the many.

A case in point is concentrated nitric acid (CNA) another item in short supply. The major producer is Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF), which produces around 1,500 tonnes a month Out of this, as much as 900 tonnes is reserved for various priority sectors like Defence Ministry units (for the manufacture of explosives) and public sector units like Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOC) Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL). "This is okay when the going is good but when there is a shorfall in production, the priority units gets the same amount and we are left in lurch," a consumer lamented.

HOC, he said, produces about 1,800 tonnes of CNA a month and gets 200 tonnes from RCF of priority basis, which is only ten per cent of its total requirement. Diversion of these 200 tonnes to chemical units could save lakhs of rupees worth of exports without crippling HOC, he pointed out.

(See also p. 44)

HIGHER PRICE WON'T HIT DMT SALE: WADIA

Bombay Dyeing does not visualise any problems in marketing its DMT at the revised higher price of Rs. 27,000 per tonne as compared to Rs. 21,000, prevailing till recently.

Company chairman Nusli Wadia, while presiding over the annual general meeting of the company, at Bombay on 22nd August, stated: "Our DMT is only Rs. 500 per tonne higher than the PTA price and there is no problem of selling the material. Rather we are booked till the end of the current financial year."

The company is going shead with the expansion of its DMT plant from

60,000 to one lakh tonnes and has a ready signed an agreement with Human Troisdorf for technical collaboration. The expansion would be complete within two years of reseiving government approval for the foreign collaboration. "This Rs. 75-crore expansion would be financed through internal resources and foreign exchange loans. Mr. Wadia added. The new technological will also help in reducing raw material and energy consumption in the existing DMT plant also, it was stated.

During the first four months of the current financial year (April-July) DMT production was 9 per cent higher at 21,264 tonnes as compared wit 19,575 tonnes for the corresponding period last year. Sales were up by per cent at Rs 45,92 crores, compared to Rs. 43.81 crores during the same period.

The company's total turnover during the first four months of the current year was Rs 110.25 crores, recording a 13 per cent increase over Rs 97.73 crores for the corresponding period last year. The production in the textile division was up by only 6 per cent during the same period, while sales were higher by 19 per cent at Rs 64.33 crores, against Rs 53.92 crores for the corresponding period last year.

The profit margin in the DMT division during first five months of the current year has been squeezed due to higher paraxylene cost. However, the "profitability has been restored to prebudget levels with the hike of Rs 6,000 per tonne in DMT's selling price," Mr Wadia said. "This would bring in additional revenue of around Rs 3 crores per month, and thus the next 7 months are expected to be as good as last year," he added

Bombay Dyeing is the biggest loser due to the hike in import duty on paraxylene, as all other DMT/PTA manufacturers have their captive plants for the manufacture of paraxylene, Mr Wadia said. The company had applied as early as 1989 to be allowed to manufacture paraxylene. However, it was informed that "it is reserved for the public sector and that Bharat Petroleum at Trombay would manufacture it. The proposal for this is still under consideration after 8 years have passed, he added (See p. 56 for earlier news)



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#### Inputs shortage cripple auxiliary industry

Severe shortage of important raw materials like ethylene oxide, butyl acrylate etc. have brought the Indian Chemicals Auxiliary Industries to a standstill. Frequent shut down by the two manufacturers of ethylene oxide during the last eight months was the major reason for the crisis (vide CW dated 23rd August, 1988).

Addressing a Press Conference, Mr. S.K Parekh, President of the Indian Chemicals Auxiliaries Manufacturers Association last week, said that the Association was planning to meet the Government authorities concerned to sort out the problem.

Ethylene Oxida (EO) is a vital raw material required by about 70 EO Condensate Manufacturers who supply their products to atleast 2000 units manufacturing surface active and other products. The number of employees involved in these activities are about 20,000.

EO is manufactured at present only by National Organic Chemical Industries Limited (NOCIL) in Bombay and a public sector company Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) in Baroda

EO is reacted with various chemicals which give rise to end products like textile process chemicals, oil additives for petroleum drilling, emulsifiers for pesticide industries, solvents for defence products, dyes as well as it is one of the vital raw materials in manufacture of prake fluids, medicinal, edible, cosmetic and pharma products.

Mr. M. D. Dhamankar, a leading lumiriary of the auxiliary industry, was of the opinion in view of good monsoon, offtake of pesticides would increase. Hence it was very essential the regular availability of EO should be made certain Pesticides industry is using a number of auxiliaries made out of EO.

The Government had estimated the demand for this product to be around 20,000 tons for 1988-89 and it was hoped that the two manufacturers namely IPCL and NOCIL will make the same available to the industries. However, in the months of November and December, NOCIL had to take a shut down and IPCL had to take a shut down in the month of May and June. This has meant that 16½% of production aximated was 22 available in the

form of EO from these two suppliers. This means that there has been non-availability of about 3,000 tons of EO between April 1988 to now.

There have been serious explosions in large petrochemical complexes in U.S.A. and other large manufacturing countries. This has made a terrific impact on availability of Ethylene based products all over the world. As a result of this, MEG (Mono Ethylene Glycol - A Derivative of EO) has gone in tremendous short supply and the International prices, as offered to buyers, have gone up from USD 650 per ton to USD 1,750 per ton. Few months back, there were no buyers for MEG manufactured by IPCL and NO-CIL and the Government had to intervene in pressuring consumers of MEG to purchase their requirements from IP-CL and NOCIL.

EO consumers are alraid that due to temporary world situation and shortage of MEG, the manufacturers of EO in India may divert their production of EO for making MEG, instead of supplying EO to consumers mentioned above. EO consumers make products which are a vital raw material for:

- (a) Textile Exports which is today having a boom in the International Market and in case this industry is not supplied with EO Condensates, exports will be adversely affected.
- b) EO Condensates are used on a large scale in the manufacture of new quality of brake fluids which is safer than the earlier formulations and is on the line of the latest international standard for the same. One of the base materials was imported but now import substitution has been made on the hope of EO availability. If however shortage oif EO continues it will bring an adverse effect in the success of import substitution.
- (c) EO is a hazardous chemical with with a very low flash point and is not fit for importing and therefore the manufacturers have to depend only on local availability of EO. Therefore, though EO is under OGL Policy of the Government, the same cannot be imported in actual practice. MEG is non hazardous and can be impor-

ted. MEG is also a large of sumption item and even if part the ethylene oxide is diverted MEG, it will not make a sizeal difference to the consumers MEG whereas the effect of t conversion will be a very serio problem for EO consumers a more than 20,000 employees w face a threat of losing jobs. I consumers are a majority sm scale industry and the Gover ment has invested a substant fund amongst these groups small scale industries. As it there are tremendous problem to small scale industries and no availability of EO will mean Death Knell to these small sca industries.

(d) EO is a vital raw material amongst the manufacturers of Ethylene oxide Condensates, Eth anolamines, Glycol Ethers, Dy Intermediates and Leather Chemicals which are either imporsubstitutes or thrust areas in the export policies of our country.

The interest of EO consumers an limited in requesting the manufacturer of EO to maintain levels of production to meet industries demand of abou 20,000 tons of EO and only the excess availability of EO above this 20,000 tons be converted into MEG, as the EO manufacturers are using normal availability period as the reference period for allocation of EO to actual users, they should follow a similar rule on MEG.

#### EXPORT OF LAB ALLOWED

The Union government has, for the first time, decided to allow the export of linear alkyl benzene (LAB). According to information available in New Delhi, initial exports would come to about 50,000 tonnes valued at \$40 million.

A decision to this effect was taken recently at a meeting which the secretary, petrochemicals, Mr. H. K. Khan, took with the producers' representatives. The immediate markets that have been identified include China, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia, Europe, also appears to be extremely promising in view of the competitive prices.

Oil the 50,000 tonnes, the Tamil Nadu Petro-produc's and Reliance Ltd. will account for exports of 20,000 tonnes each. The balance will be exported by IPCL

# Butyl acrylate and 2 ethyl hexyl acrylate

Butyl Acrylate is a vital input for the nanufacture of Synthetic Resins (Acryic Resins) which are used by the texile and leather industries in the manuacture of goods largely Butyl Acrylate is required by about 100 Synthetic Resin manufacturers which nclude about 90 small scale units and 10 medium/DGTD Units who supply their products to various textile and leather industries. The number employees involved in the manufacture of Synthetic Resins (Acrylic Resins) are about 25,000 Butyl Acrylate is not being produced in adequate quantities by the indigenous producers to meet the requirements of the cosmetic market which is 2300-2500 t.p.a. Yet it continues to be in App. 3 Part A of the current import policy and consequently very meagre imports can be made to supplement the small supplies produced domestically.

The principal manufacturer IPCL. whese plant has been primarily installed to manufacture methyl acrylate required for their captive consumption, states that their plant capacity for all acrylates is 10,000 tpa. Going by past performance it would appear that IPCL's plant capacity is in effect less as only one acrylate is being produced at a time. Also the actual capacity depends on the product mix because the process time cycle differs for each product Further, their acrylate plant has been having technical problems which has cut into the operating capacity of the plant,

IPCL Bombay, claim to have a capacity of 3000 t.p.a to manufacture acrylates but in actual practice they manufacture more of ethyl acrylate and negligible quantities of Butyl Acrylate have been offered infrequently to actual users.

At present the fate of another acrylic Monomer namely 2 Ethyl Hexyl Acrylate is similar to Butyl Acrylate. Both the manufacturers are not supplying 2 Ethyl Hexyl Acrylate to various small sector industrial units who manulacture Synthetic Resin Adhesives. Apart from this due to explosion in the plant of a hig U.S.A. manufacturer the supply position of Acrylic Monomers has become very difficult In fact it has become a rare commodiDGTD TURNS DOWN EO USERS' PLEA

Development has declined ethylene ferred imports because it was cheaper. oxide (EO) consumers' plea that Indian The DGTD official reportedly said that Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. be di- MEG was also an important raw marected not to divert more EO for pro- terial and his office did not want to ducing monethylene glycol (MEG).

At a meeting held in Delhi recently a leading EO consumer said that according to his information, IPCL has decided to market only 550 tonnes of EO per month, against a capacity of 750 to 800 tonnes. IPCL proposed to convert the remaining EO into MEG, a maximum of 850 tonnes a month he said.

maintain its MEG output at the 1983 pany's offtake in 1986-87, he said.

The Director-General of Technical level when many MEG consumers preinterfere with the product mix decided upon by the company.

No IPCL representative was present at the meeting. A representative of National Organic Chemical Industries Ltd. (NOCIL), the only other EO manufacturer, said his company could produce The company would continue to self He wanted DGTD to advice IPCL to this quantity on the basis of each com-

price quoted is totally unworkable. The Government therefore should exercise their authority to the producers of Acrylic Monomers to produce more quantities and supply the goods in sufficient quantities to all the consumers. IPCL could produce the entire requirement of Butyl Acrylate and 2 Ethyl Hexyl Acrylate without any problem 1f they are forced to manufacture.

If Immediate action is not taken by the Government consumers of Butyl Acrylate and 2 Ethyl Hexyl Acrylate shall have no alternative but to close their units which will ulitimately affect 25,000 employees.

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Dr. O. P. KHARBANDA

# Frankly Speaking

O. P. KHAFIBANDA, Cost & Management Consultant, 501, Olympus, Altamount Road, Bombay-400 026.

# A Damn Good Investment!

Nearly thirty years ago, I entered a life subscription for the Readers Digest paying \$100, in the name of my son. Our entire family of four has read avidly the monthly issues of the Digest acclaimed to be the 'World's most read magazine'. In order to locate a particular article of interest that appeared 'just the other month' (it always turned out to be much older than we thought) we used to 'browse through' (quite profitably) the entire collection. Later, we came to know of the annual index which was available, free of charge, against a specific request. This facilitated the search process considerably, although the random browsing had its own value, including a nobel prize! (See next FRANKLY SPEAKING).

We moved house from Calcutta to Bombay in the early 60's and thereafter, we had to shift house four times. Each move was preceded by 'spring cleaning with some hard decisions on whether to retain a particular item or not. In case of the Digest, the choice was clear and unanimous. It was always retained, with the result that until recently we had half a cupboard full of the back issues of the Digest. The collection was always easily accessible and it was a pleasure to pick up some old issues at random and find quite a bit of material very relevant at that particular time. As an author, before starting an article or a book on any particular subject in my field of Engineering-Finance-Management, I usually begin my search from the Digest Index and always find some relevant material as a starter/nucleus sufficient to get the project 'off the ground' and rounds to the various libraries, depending on the particular subject in hand, would enable collection of more material.

Earlier I had thought of getting the back volumes bound but they can be bulky for convenient hand-

ling. So, why not cut out articles of interest from the old issues of the Digest, including some of the regular features such as Life in These United States, It Pays to Enrich Your Word Power etc. The material is now classified subjectwise e.g., health, nature, history, geography, personalities etc. Browsing through a collection on one particular subject is like getting a quick 'refresher course' on the subject. This exercise has been most rewarding in generating new ideas for my future writings. And the real fun has only just begun!

Each of us has in every issue of the Digest several items of direct relevance to our respective fields. I am a Chemical Engineer and a consultant in the cost and management field. My wife, Sudershan, is a qualified teacher with particular interest in history and romance. Our daughter, Madhu, qualified in catering, Hotel Management and Applied Nutrition and used to manage a premier industrial canteen club. Her husband is also in the same field and is Manager (F & B) at the five star deluxe, Leela Penta. Our son, Vivek, by whose courtesy we get to read the Digest is a Chartered Accountant (Certified) and runs a Computer Centre in Bombay suburbs. Fortunately, his wife Smita is also fond of reading. There is another 'fallout' too, e.g., on my 2-3 weeks trips abroad or a shorter one in India, I take with me material on a couple of subjects for perusal.

The Digest has indeed proved to be one of our best investments, ever. It has been recovered many times over and with the technique described here, the return has increased several fold. The dividends, of course, still continue to come every month and we eagerly look forward to many more years of pleasure, in reading and education. And this 'treasure' will be bequeathed to our grand children, the first one having just started school!

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# Benzene shortage: HOC Cochin unit 'shut down'

Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd, has been forced to suspend operations at its 40,000 TPA phenol plant in Cochin, the first major casualty of the acute benzene shortage now plaguing the chemical industry.

The plant requires around 1000 tonnes of benzene everyday. To run the plant at 70 per cent capacity, benzene requirement is around 70 tonnes. The plant cannot run below this capacity, it is understood. The bulk of the supplies are effected by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. A BPCL spokesman said the Corporation has been endeavouring to fulfill its commitments to the best of its ability.

HOC is hopeful of resuming operations by the month- end, when some 17,000 tonnes of imports, under the advance licensing scheme, is expected to arrive. Benzene is now quoted around \$ 400-425 in the international market.

The virtual shut-down of the phenol plant was led to a scarcity of phenol. The worst affected is the plywood industry, the major consumer. Phenol prices, however, have not flared, industry sources said. HOC is the major producer, with 40,000 tonnes capacity, followed by Herdillia Chemicals with 20,000 tonnes.

The benzene shortage has also affected HOC's export commitments. The company has so far exported 3,000 tonnes of phenol and had planned to export 1,000 tonnes every month.

According to an industry source, the two lab units (Reliance Industries and Tamil Nadu Petroproducts Ltd), major benzene consumers, are relatively unaffected by the crisis. Both units are said to be holding around two months' inventory.

Unconfirmed reports say that the commissioning of Cochin Refineries' 87,000 TPA benzene plant, scheduled for early 1989, is likely to be delayed. Until this plant goes on stream, the industry will have to live with shortages, it is feared. The material is also said to be in short supply in the international market.

Industry sources say both Indian Oil Corporation and the State Trading Corporation are scouting for imports whi-

ch the Government has okayed. Only an year ago, there was a surplus of benzene. The dramatic rise in consumption is attributed mainly to the commissioning of the two lab units, who between them consume more than 50,000 tonnes of benzene.

Benzene is quoted around Rs. 6,-500 per tonne ex-factory. The major producers are Indian Oil Corporation, whose 20-year old Koyali plant produces 48,000 TPA and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, whose three-year-old plant in Bombay has a capacity of 98,-000 TPA.

Other producers include Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd (IPCL) which produces 35,000 TPA, about half of which goes for captive consumption. National Organic Chemical Industries Ltd (NOC!L) produces around 15,000 TPA and the various other steel plant produce around 26,000 tonnes as a by-product.

#### BENZENE BEING DIVERTED TO LAB

Many medium and small-scale units making dyes, dyes intermediates, pesticides and bulk drugs are totally denied of supplies of benzene, a building block for these industries, since last several weeks.

These medium and small-scale units have received virtually no supplies of benzene since this July. Many of these units had to drastically curtail their production and export plans.

Both Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Indian OII Corporation, two large manufacturers of benzene, are reportedly diverting a substantial part of their production to manufacturers of linear alkyl benzene (LAB) and to other large users.

Almost 50 per cent of the current monthly production of 13,000 tonnes of benzene are consumed by the threo LAB manufacturers.

Hindustan Organic Chemicals which uses benzene for the manufacture of dyes and dyes intermediates requires 2000 tonnes of benzene a month while Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation requires 2000 tonnes of benzene for the manufacture of caprolactum.

Industry sources said the shrinkage in the availability of benzene had arisen especially after the commissioning of the LAB plants of Reliance industries and Tamil Nadu Petrochemicals early this year.

Two LAB units and other large users of benzene have contractual arrangements with both the oil companies for regular supplies of benzene. But no such contracts have been executed be ween oil companies and most of the medium and small-scale units.

Meanwhile, the State Trading Cooporation has been asked to import 14 000 tonnes of benzene in the content of the current tight supply situations. Out of this quantity 7,000 tonnes are expected to be imported very shortly

#### LAB STOCKS PILE UP

Linear alkyl benzene (LAB), a vita input for detergent manufacture has n takers now.

The three manufacturers of LAB Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd Reliance Industries and Tamil Nadi Petrochemicals have a combined un sold stock of over 35,000 tonnes valued at over Rs. 75 crores.

Only a few months ago, the State Trading Corporation had imported this chemical on a large-scale as the domestic production by IPCL then was inadequate to meet the total demand.

According to informed sources, the current monthly production of LAB by the three units is placed at 13,000 ton nes whereas the monthly demand from the detergent industry is not more than 10,000 tonnes.

With a monthly addition of at leas 3,000 tonnes of LAB to the stocks with no substantial increase in demand manufacturers may face a serious in ventory problem in the months to come.

Nirma still ranks the largest user of LAB with a monthly consumption of 6,000 tonnes followed by Hindustal Lever at 2,000 tonnes.

Reliance has a capacity to produc 60,000 tonnes per annum, Tamil Nad Pe'ro 50,000 tonnes, and IPCL 30,000 tonnes.

The sources point out that with surplus production of LAB now and it the months to come, the government should encourage the export of LAB to avoid stock accumulation.

A major hitch for the export of LAI would be the high price as compared to the international price.

# ICMA proposals to boost chemicals export

The Indian Chemical Manufacturers sociation (ICMA) has made certain commendations with a view to expanng the chemicals export base to Rs. 900 crores from the present Rs. 200 crores in line with Government jectives

ICMA has suggested joint monitoring the erratic raw materials supply sition by the Government and indusand the initiation of corrective eps through a flexible adjustment in sh compensatory support or making ailable inputs at steady prices.

Further, it has recommended that ms available adequately in the pmestic market should not be shifted appendix 2B from appendix 3A as is would affect manufacturers adverbly. However, the association agrees the need for an immediate policy view on the subject.

ICMA has also suggested the foration of a standing committee

trade and tariff for a broad-based review of various sectoral representations made by different sectors of industry.

Speaking at a news conference in New Delhi recently the ICMA President, Mr. S.M. Datta, said chemicals export from India is suffering from three inherent drawbacks. The size of units are comparatively smaller than international limit, the cost of inputs tend to go higher and the cost of energy consumption works against the

ICMA has also listed several hindrances in the way of growth of the chemicals industry despite an average annual growth rate of 12 per cent during the last four years, Removal of these lacunae would facili'ate an accelerated growth for the industry during the Eighth Plan period, according to the association.

In view of the recent liberalisation measures by the Government, ICMA

has suggested that liberalisation shou-Id cover both the ID and R Act and the MRTP Act without exception and should be extended to the chemicals, petrochemicals and pesticides industry so as to provide the necessary impetus for growth So far, the Government had been issuing notices granting exemptions under the ID and R Act or the MRTP Act as measures of liberallsation, the association has said

It has further suggested that locational constraints should also not be made applicable to capacity re-endorsement, automatic growth and broadbanding provisions. According to a recent clarification, the same is not applicable to units expanding to minimum economic size of operations.

Also broad-banding of chemicals should be extended to dyes and dyestuff intermediates and a dialogue should be inititated between DGTD and ICMA in this regard.

These apart, ICMA has suggested that industrial ticences should make adequate provisions for chemicals byproducts within broadly defined specifications

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#### Fertiliser order amended

The Union Government has amended the Fertiliser (Control) Order of 198 by issuing a new order to be called the Fertifiser (Control) (Third Amendment) Order of 1988. The order brings under its purview micro-nutrient fertilisers.

The order has now redefined fertilisers, which now means any substance used or intended to be used as a fertiliser of the soil and or crop and specified in Part-A of Schedule-I of the order and includes a mixture of fertilisers, mixture of micro-nutrient fertilisers and special mixture of fertilisers

According to the order, mixture of micro-nutrient fertilisers would mean a mixture of two or more micro-nutrient fertilisers. Similarly, "grade" under the order would mean the nutrient contents in the fertiliser expressed in percentage.

The order now stipulates that a State Government may by a notification in the official Gazette and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in such notifications, constitute a committee called the State fertiliser committee to advise it regarding the grades and 

formulations of mixture of micro-nutrient fertilisers and their specifications

Such committees would consist of a chairman and not more than five other members, having experience or knowledge in the field, including a representative from the State Agricultural University, the fertiliser industry and the Indian Micro-fertilisers Manufacturers' Association.

The amended order also stipulates that subject to other provisions, no person shall be allowed to manufacture any mixture of fertilisers unless such mixture conforms to the standards set out in the notification to be issued by the Union Government in the official

Similarly, no person shall manufacture any mixture of micro-nutrient fertilisers unless such mixture conforms to the standards set out in the notification to be issued by the State Government in the official Gazette.

According to the amended order, existing units already manufacturing mixtures of micro-nutrient fertilisers for which standards have not yet been specified, may continue to manufacture sale, sell, offer for sale, stock or e bit for sale or distribute such mixt of micro-nutrient fertilisers for year from the date of the amenda (July 28, 1988) or till the standa are prescribed by the State Gov ment, whichever is earlier.

condi This is subject to the that before the expiry of the one period, the units will follow the s' dard prescribed by the State Gove ment and certificate of manufact under clause 15 of the order

It is also stipulated that no tificate of manufacturer shall be gr ted in respect of any mixture of fe lisers or mixture of micronutrient tilisers which does not conform the standards set out in the notifi

By another amendment to the F tiliser (Control) Order of 1985, Government has prescribed specifi tions for nitrophosphates. Eight spe fications have been stipulated in gard to moisture percentage, total i rogen percentage, percentage of nit gen in ammonical form, percentage nitrogen in nitrate form, percentage neutral ammonium nitrate, solu phosphate, percentage of water solu phosphate, calcium nitrate percenta and particle size of the material.

The Fertiliser (Control) Order issued on September 25, 1985. Subquently, five amendments have be brought about on February 14, 198 October 21, 1986, September 14, 1 87, December 11, 1987 and March 1 1988. The present amendment is th the sixth in the last three years.

HFC PLANTS' REVAMP TO COST ADDITIONAL RS. 986 CRORES

The Union Government will have invest an additional amount, of over R 986 crores on four plants of Hindu tan Fertiliser Corporation (HFC). these are to be rehabilitated.

The plants in question are the o erating units at Namrup, Barauni ar Durgapur and the Haldia project which is lying closed since October 1986 for lowing a Government directive. T amount required to be invested on revamping these units has been been e timated by the foreign consultan which were appointed by the Govern ment to assess and formulate a par kage for the ailing plants.

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he Government has not yet taken decision on the recommendation ich were received only a couple of eks back. But sources here say t the Government would be in a big emma as to whether to work out an itional Rs. 986 crores for investing the plants, which is one of the top loss-making public sector units in country with a workforce of over 421.

The reports of Toyo Engineering rporation of Japan and Udhe Gmbh, est Germany, have proposed that the Ildia fertiliser project can be rehabiated and commissioned with an addinal investment of about Rs. ores. The proposal envisages that ter rehabilitation, the ammonia plant n operate at 80 per cent capacity ilisation, urea and methanol plants 90 per cent capacity utilisation d salt and acid group of plants (exuding the soda ash plant) at full cacity.

The consultants have suggested a milar package for operating nits of Namrup, Barauni and Durgair. The package envisages that the nits would be revamped in three pricipal stages so that only minimum ss of production is incurred. The reabilitation cost is estimated at Rs. 80 39 crores.

According to the consultants, the ants will be achieving their individual ited capacities after they are rehabiliited as per the suggested plan.

HFC, with a paid-up capital of about s. 560 crores, produced fertilisers orth Rs. 153,74 crores in 1986-87 ompared to Rs. 149,81 crores in 985-86 Its losses in 1986-87 were stimated at Rs. 86.22 crores against s. 71.56 crores in the previous year. The plant at Haldia was mechanially completed in 1979 but it could ever commence commercial producon on account of a variety of reasons ill August 1986. The plant was on rial operations and production of 8,655 onnes of ammonia, 1,905 tonnes of nethanol, 13,889 tonnes of urea and 3,388 tonnes of nitrogen was achieved.

The basic problems faced by the Halia plant were the inconsistency and requent breakdown in oxygen compresors, leakages from the reversible ex changers of air separation plant, ammonia and methanol condensor leakago and frequent power interruptions. Ma

intenance work was taken up in Aug.-September 1986 and subsequently the plant could not be restarted for trial operations in view of the directive from the Government in October 1986 to stop the commissioning activities

However, special permission was obtained for carrying out limited trials on nitro-phosphate plant to establish the feasibility of the sulchate recycle process for nitro-phosphate production In January 1987 the trial runs were carried out successfully on a smallscale, thereby, establishing that the process was prima facie workable.

Meanwhile, the Government decided to appoint foreign consultants to carry out an end-to-end survey and to submit the report for taking investment decisions to rehabilitate the project. The investment requirement of Rs. 500 crores is arrived at by these very consul-

The licensed capacities of the Haldia project are: 1,65 lakh tonnes of urea, 2.52 lakh tonnes of NPK, 1.99 lakh tonnes of NP, 41,250 tonnes of methanol, 82,500 tonnes of sulphuric acid, 1.59 lakh tonnes of nitric acid 33,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid and 1.32 lakh tonnes of ammonium sulphate

Even the two units of HFC's Namrup plant, the unit at Barauni and the one at Durgapur have been facing production constraints as a result of which their capacity utilisation has remained poor at 48 per cent, 40 per cent and 33 per cent respectively in 1986-87 compared to 38 per cent, 61 per cent and 30 per cent in the previous

The Namrup units, which produce ammonium sulphate, urea, sulphuric acid and ammonia, have been facing problems on account of the following factors: Diversion of ammonia from the first unit to !he second unit, frequent fluctuations in natural gas pressure from suppliers end, power interruptions and equipment break-down in ammonia, sulphuric acid, ammonium sulphate and urea plants

factors, the In view of all these consultants have suggested a major revamping of these plants so that these could achieve their rated capacities.

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# Panel to monitor industrial exports in 8th plan

The Government has set up a highevel steering committee for planning industrial exports during the Eighth Plan (1990-95) under the chairmanship of Dr. A. S. Ganguly of Hindustan ever.

The 20-member committee comprises representatives from diverse sections of the industry, bureaucracy, banks, export-import houses, marketing bodies and universities. The group is to submit its report to the Government by December 31.

Amongst the committee's major tasks will be the assessment of the importance of manufactured and processed goods in accelerating industrial growth and to suggest measures for integrating export planning with industrial planning.

The panel will further review the performance of manufactured and processed goods export and identify key exvort items alongwith reasons for their predominance.

It will also identify hindrances in the way of higher growth in existing export items elongwith reasons for overcome them.

The panel will also evolve a strategy for a qualitative expansion in the export of manufactured goods so that the export of manufactured and processed goods constitute 10 per cent of the gross national product by the end of the Eighth Plan.

This may include considerations on changes in the prevaiting fiscal and tariff policy framework, means to achieve technology and quality upgradation of export products, identification of markets with the greatest potential for export growth, changes in the administrative structure governing exports and industrial location policy affecting exports.

The panel will further identify major investment and necessary infrastructure for export promotion and consider ways

by which the State Governments may take appropriate measures for export promotion as an integral part of their industrial planning.

The working group has been empowered to co-opt any such off:cial or non-official as member(s) as it may deem necessary.

Besides Dr. Ganguly, who is the Chairman of Hindustan Lever Ltd, the other members of the group are: Dr. P. C. Joshi, adviser (international economics), Planning Commission, Mr. A. V. Ganesan, Additional Secretary, Department of Industrial Development, Mr. P.G. Muralidharan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Mr. R. C. Chopra, Additional Director, Department of Electronics, Mr. Surindra Singh, Principal Secretary (Industry) UP, Mr. K. Mohan Chandran, Secretary (Industry), Kerala, The Chairman, Export-Import Bank of India, Mr. S.S. Dawra, Managing Director, National Agricultural Co-operative Federation of India Ltd., Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Mr. Tarun Das, Director-General Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI), Mr. K. Obayya, Executive Director, Trade Development Authority, Mr. H.S. Sandhu, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Chinar Exports, Mr. Binay Kumar, Ltd., the Chairman, Banaras House Chairman, Tata Exports, Mr. Munjal, chairman, Hero Motors, Mr. G.H. Shah, president, Bharat Chambers of Commerce, the President, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Mr. A.R. Matoo, carpet manufacturer and exporter, and Dr. Rakeshmohan, Economic Adviser, Planning Commis-

# PLANT PROTECTION CHEMICALS : 'ECOSYSTEM POLLUTED'

Kerala's minister for agriculture V.V.
Raghavan said that "unscientific usage
of plant protection chemicals had polluted not only the vegetables but also
the ecosystem."

inaugurating the three-day 10th

workshop on vegetable research, sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at nearby Vellanikkara agricultural university campus, the minister called upon the scientists to find out effective ways and means to reduce the residual toxicity of many insecticides presently being used by the farmers.

He said the government had taken effective steps to augment the production of vegetables by increasing the area, using high yielding varieties and making the requisite inputs available to the farmers. About 300 scientists from all over the country are attending the workshop.

Speaking on the occasions, deputy director general of ICAR, Dr. K.L. Chadha, said India was the second largest producer of vegetables in the world with a total annual production of 45 million tonnes in an area of four million hedtares.

The minimum requirement of vegetables in the country would be about 104 million tonnes by 2000 AD for an expected population of 950 million, he added.

He said the !CAR's all-India co-ordinated project had made many strides during the last 18 years. It had identified 92 new varieties of vegetables and standardised about 40 schedules for control of diseases and pests.

Mr. Chadha said that out of three lakh tonnes of vegetables consumed in the state annually, 1.5 lakh tonnes were being brought from the neighbouring states.

At present the per capita consumption of vegetables among Keralites was 30 grams a day as against the optimum requirement of 280 grams, he said.

The total requirement of vegetables in the state would be 31.1 lakh tonnes by 2000 AD and to achieve this an area of 1.55 lakh hectares had to be brought under vegetable cultivation.

A national research centre on onion and garlic would be established shortly, he said.

# FINE-CHEMICALS & DRUGS

# Four more bulk drugs under price control

The Union Government is bringing bulk drugs used for four more national health programmes under price control. The Drugs Price Control Order of 1987 covered only bulk drugs used for seven programmes.

According to official sources, the Government is also planning for recategorisation of some major bulk drugs.

The Ministry for Health and Family Welfare has already sent its list of bulk drugs, which need to be covered under DPCO 1987 to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in the Industry Ministry, which is the administrative agency for implementation of the price control order.

The department has also referred all the recommended bulk drugs to the Dr. Vijay Kelkar Committee.

Once the Committee completes its work, the Government would amended DPCO, 1987 to give effect to the reclassification of the drugs concerned. DPCO, 1987 has empowered the department to periodically review the list of price-controlled drugs and modify it.

The order included 27 bulk drugs used for six national health programmes

under Category-I, as per which the the maximum allowable post manufacturing expenses (MAPE) was fixed at 75 per cent.

Some bulk drugs needed for national family welfare programme including mother and child health, were also brought under the price control, but were classified under Category-II, as per which MAPE was fixed at 100 per cent.

The four national health programmes, to be covered under the enlarged DPCO, 1987, are sexually transmitted disease (STD) control programme, universal programme on immunisation, national aids centrol programme and the national goitre control programme.

The recommended drugs for these programmes are now being evaluated by the committee for inclusion in Category-I of DPCO, 1987. The criterion for inclusion in category-I is that the bulk drugs have to be used for health programmes.

Similarly, drugs commonly used for the maternal and child health programme (Vitamin-A, iron and folic acid) are being shifted from Category-II to category-I. Sera and Vaccines required under the immunisation programme has also been recommended for inclusion under Category-I.

The Health Ministry has also recommended that paracetamol should be removed from Category-I. Also propose are re-categorisation of rifampicin (now under Category-I) and exclusion of diazepam and other tranquilisers from Category-II.

It has mooted that tetracycline antibiotics should be preferred to othe antibiotics and hydrocortisone for inclusion under price control.

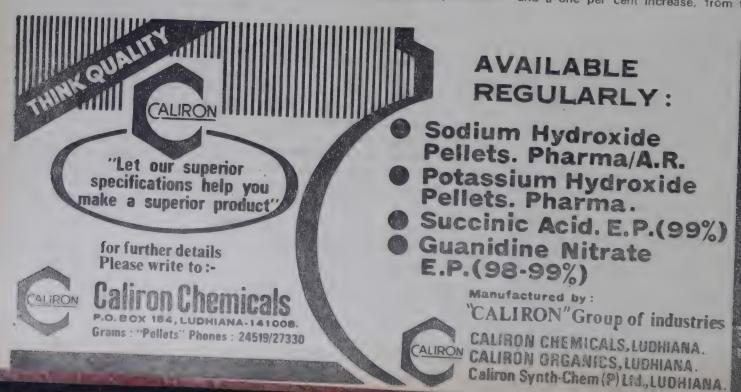
A final decision on all these recommendations are expected to be announced shortly, sources in New Delhi say,

# GLINDIA BOYCOTT TO SPREAD AS TALKS FAIL

The pharmaceutical trade has threatened to spread its boycott of Glindia Ltd. to Delhi and hitherto unaffected States from September 1.

This follows the failure of the talks between the company and trade representatives arranged by the All-India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists in Delhi recently.

The wholesalers sought a uniform eight per cent margin on all products, inclusive of excise duty. Glindia offered half per cent increase on betamethasone range of products to five per cent and a one per cent increase, from five



six per cent, according to a trade okesman, Wholesalers also sought increase in retailer margins inclusive excise duty, which was not acceptate to Glindia.

A Glindia spokesman said all that ne company had offered was a one per ent increase in margins on non-betanethasone products. He said the talks ailed because the trade insisted on two re-conditions: payment of new margins with retrospective effect with the proviso that the amount should be paid o AIOCD, and the demand to improve stailer margins.

According to Mr. Kishor Shah, Alo-CD Vice-President, the company offered to hike margins on de-controlled products by two per cent if the trade agreed to fixing margin on controlled products as suggested by the company, but exclusive of excise duty.

He said, decontrolled products had a small share of the company's turnover. Additional two per cent on decontrolled products would have fetched about Rs. 60 lakhs more for the trade. Against this, the suggestion to calculate margins exclusive of excise duty would have robbed the trade of Rs. 1.42 crores, he said. In other words, acceptance of the proposal would have worsened the wholesalers' loss. The Glindia spokesman, however, denied having made such a proposal.

#### PESTICIDE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME INDIA

The Pesticide Development Programme India (PDPI) is conducting an Asia and Pacific Regional Training Programme on Quality Control of Pesticide Formulations for the UNIDO sponsored Asia & Pacific Regional Network project on pesticides (RENPAP) under the sponsorship of the World Bank, FAO, UNIDO & UNDP, The programme is scheduled to run for a period of five weeks, beginning 1st November to 2nd December 1988. Representatives of the member countries of RENPAP; Pakistan, Alfganistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and officials of the sponsoring agencies and WHO are to par-

distinguished faculty drawn from national and international organisations is likely to be on hand to deliver specialist lectures. The programme is highly practical oriented, wherein a bench chemist would learn to use all the modern techniques employed in pesticides analysis.

It has been decided to keep ten seats in the training programme reserved exclusively for the representatives of the Indian Pesticide Industry on first come first served hasis. A general fee of Rs. 3000 per participant and for the associate members of the PDPI, a fee of Rs. 2,700 would be levied. The fee would cover course material, tea/ coffee, daily lunch and validictory dinner, daily transport from Delhi and local site seeing but would not include lodging and out-station tours. The members of industry wishing to take advantage of this training programme may send their nomination along with a bank draft as above in the name of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon-122 016, Haryana, India, at the earliest...

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Mr. Kalbag's efforts at last met with success, when he found cellulose was a better material for filtering water than ceramic, which are used in the candles or cartridges, fitted into the filters. Having secured a foothold in the market for filters with capacities of 900 litres per hour and above which are custom built, Mr. Kalbag turned his attention to producing filters that could be easily fitted on to taps at home which would deliver four to six litres of clean, bacteria free water straight from the tap every minute.

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# STC secures contracts from Algeria

The State Trading Corporation (STC) s made a breakthrough in the Algomarket by securing contracts for export of drugs, pharmaceuticals d chemicals worth Rs. 12.76 cros. The contracts were won against iff competition from firms in advaned countries, it is claimed.

The break-up is; drugs and pharmaouticals Rs. 10.7 crcres, agro chemials Rs. 1 crore, and chemicals (Soium sulphate) Rs. 0.96 crore.

Shipments of pharmaceuticals hemicals worth Rs. 4 crores to Alge ia are expected to be completed by he end of September next. Export of irugs and pharmaceuticals worth Rs. 5.34 crores would be shipped in the next financial year.

With the Algerian contracting, STC has export orders on hand worth Rs 25 croses. The export target for drugs pharmaceuticals and chemicals for 1988-89 is Rs. 33 crores which is exported to be exceeded, according to STC sources.

STC has entered the US market for the first time. It will export dyes and dye intermediates worth Rs. 27 lakhs STC sources expect to get more orders from that country once the first order is executed satisfactorily.

Moreover, it will export dys inter mediates and antibiotics worth Rs. 7 crores to China through Hong Kong Efforts are being made to tap this po tential market, the sources explain.

Besides, STC will export bulk drugs and antibiotics to West Germany worth Rs. 3 crores in the current year This order was secured recently.

. It will also export antibiotics worth Rs. one crore to Syrla

Interestingly, STC has signed contracts for the import of 900 tennes of Benzene from Turkey. The whole quantity is scheduled to arrive by the end of this month.

Benzene will be supplied to userindustries for export production.

KREBS SWISS SIGNS INDIAN SALT UPGRADING CONTRACT

Krebs Swiss has won a contract to supply a salt upgrading plant to Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals (GACL) who operate a chlorine plant at Baroda. India.

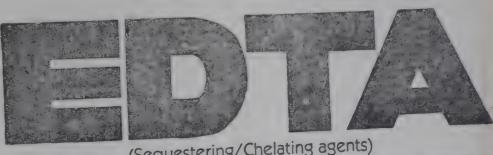
The project, based on the SALEX process, will have a capacity of 40 t/h upgraded salt. It represents KREBS SWISS's first contract for this type of plant in India. Further orders are ex pocted in the near future because of poor quality of Indian solar salt. the chloralkali industry, impurities salt are causing high cost of brine treatment and excessive mercury pollution.

GACL, who use barium carbonate, caustic lye and soda ash for brine purification, expect the SALEX process to reduce their cost of brine chemicals by about a half. Discharge

of mercury contaminated sludge will be reduced by almost 70%. The proestimated at approx. 1.3 crores Rupes (US\$1 mill), is expected to have a payback of less than one and a half years. Most of the equipment will be manufactured in India.

The SALEX process, developed by KREBS SWISS, is an advanced, low cost salt purification technology englneered for high efficiency, low losses of salt, low consumption of power and water and high return on investment. The process finds application in chloralkali and soda ash manufacture, refined table salt production and processaing of salt in mines and solar saltworks. The achievable product purity is 99.5-99.9% NaCl. The first 15 t/h SALEX plant went into commercial operation in Olhao, Portugal in 1983.

KREBS SWISS, Zurich, is an independent firm of chemical engineering contractors and consultants serving the chemical, electrochemical and salt Industries throughout the world.



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### Drug firm chief held in FERA case

The president of Burroughs Well-come, Mr. D. K. Bose, was arrested by enforcement directorate in Bombay on the charge that the multinational pharmaceutical firm siphoned off foreign exchange worth Rs. 1.35 crores in violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

Mr. Bose was ordered to be released in a bail of Rs. 5 lakhs by the additional chief metropolitan magistrate, Mr. R. N. Patil.

The enforcement directorate raided the company and Mr. Bose's residential premises and seized incriminating documents, it was stated.

The company allegedly made illegal remittances to its principals. Wellcome Foundation, U.K., by overinvoicing imports made from them.

An additional company secretary of the firm, Mr. D.C.T. Tanna, was interrogated on May 9 this year and the department learnt that the company had imported trimethoxy benzaldehyde from a firm in Holland through the Wellcome Foundation Ltd. In September-October, 1986, two consignments were

received. For four consignments weighing 17,800 kg., the Indian company remitted an excess of Rs. 11 lakhs with an intention to retain the funds abroad, it was alleged.

The international prices of a drug triptolidine, was between £515-710/kg. However, Wellcome Foundation allegedly inflated the price and sold it to its Indian subsidiary at prices ranging from £850 to £1047. The inflated amount in the imports made between 1982 and 1987 by the company was about Rs. 1.24 crores, according to the enforcement directorate. The directorate had confirmed the prevalent price of the imported drugs and the invoice price was clearly inflated, the court was told.

Unaccounted cash of Rs. 7 lakhs was seized from the residence of Mr. Bose. A number of important documents were also seized from the residence and office premises. The magistrate directed Mr. Bose to attend the office of the enforcement directorate daily to help in the investigation.

Burroughs Wellcome, originally

100 per cent foreign company, dilute its foreign holdings to 40 per cent 1984. Though 60 per cent of the sh res of the company are held by India public, the management was under the control of the foreign firm.

Though, subsequent to dilution, the company's foreign remittances should have proportionately reduced, in realities was not so. Since the Indian first had the facility of importing raw materials from its own counterpart abroad there was ample scope for manipulating invoiced prices. Sources in the enforcement directorate said.

The company was earlier raided in 1985 and show-cause notices were is sued subsequently. The case is still pending for adjudication.

## NOTIFICATION ON GELATINE CAPSULE GEAR IMPORT

The Government has prescribed the conditions which will govern import of 950 high speed hard getatine capsules basic machines at concessional duty. First, at the time of clearance of the goods, the intending importer shall produce to the Assistant Collector of Customs, a certificate issued by an officer not lower in rank than a Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

The certificate would testify that the importer has executed a bond specified in this regard by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports undertaking to export gelatine capsules of three times the value of the imported machinery within a period of five years from the date of clearance of the said machinery.

The certificate would also testify that the importer has undertaken to comply with such instructions as are issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports to monitor and enforce the fulfilment of the export obligation.

Secondly, the intending importers have to execute an indemnity-cum-guarantee bond as specified in the relevant annexures with the regional licensing authority concerned before clearance of the goods through the customs

The amount of indemnity-cum-guarantee bond shall be equal to an amount equivalent to the difference between the normal rate of customs duty including additional, auxiliary and countervailing duties leviable and the duty actually paid for import under the concessional rates as per the notification of May 25, 1938.



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OOD GRADE PLASTICS .

# Measures to ensure easy availability

A series of measures are soon be ken to ensure easy availability of food ade plastics meant for packaging of ocessed foods.

These steps are being taken, official ources say, as part of the strategy to romote development of the processed oods industry. It has been identified s a major thrust area for exports in ne next few years. Packaging of proessed foods in internationally acceped modes has therefore assumed sigificance:

The proposed measures include reluction in import duties of polyester chips bottle grade as well as on equipnent needed to manufacture containers made of such plastics. Incentives will also be given for setting up more bota tle-making units based on food grade plastics.

Currently, it is pointed out, a large number of processed foods are being packaged in unsuitable plastics. For instance, recycled PVC (poly vinyl chloride) is being used for many processed foods even though this reduces the shelf life of such products.

Processed food manufacturers are reluctant to opt for bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or what is known as polyester chips bottle grade, because of high prices of this raw material. With the steps riow proposed to be taken, the government expects that PET prices will fall, thereby making use of PET bottles and containers economically viable.

Apart from high prices, another problem being faced is inadequate availability of PET by bottle-making units. At present there is only one indigenous manufacturer of PET with an installed capacity to 1,200 tonnes per annum. The existing demand is about 2,000 tonnes per annum for bottle manufacturers and this is expected to rise to 3,200 tonnes per annum by 1988-89.

Although imports are being allowed to meet the balance requirements of industry, duty has been pagged at 245 per cent ad valorem. This would ensure that the landed cost of these chips is brought in line with that of other thermoplastic raw materials used for packaging purposes.

Similarly, it has been decided to cut the import duty on stretch blow moulding machine used for PET bottle pro-

duction, from 90 per cent to 35

#### NYLON-6 PLASTIC, A BOON TO INDUSTRY

The use of nylon-6 as a versatile engineering plastic has been assuming greater importance in various fields in the industry. That it has several advantages over fercous and non-ferrous materials has been proved in the case studies undertaken by the Gujarat State Fertilizers Co. (GSFC).

Nylon-6, the new material has proved to the best alternative to conventional materials like metals, glass, wood and leather, and has vast scope for different applications in industries like automobile, textiles, engineering. electronics and food and oil packaging In order to highlight the importance of nylon-6 in national economy, GSFC organised an exhibition in New Delhi. A large number of products made from nylon-6 were on display alongwith panels showing the advantages of this material over many steel parts and as alternative material for packaging.

Mr. J.P. Shan, GSFC Marketing Director, described it as a futuristic plastic with a potential to revolutionise industry and lifestyle of the people. The company is the largest manufacture of Nylon-6.

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Phone Ahmedabad: 468991, Bombay: 224636/232267, New Delhi: 262481, 

# Bombay Dyeing hikes DMT price

Bombay Dyeing, the largest DMT manufacturer in the country, has raised its selling price by Rs. 6,000 per tonne to Rs. 27,000 ex-factory. The selling price of Rs. 21,000 per tonne had remained unchanged since 1985.

It might be recalled that the other two DMT manufacturers in the country, IPCL and Bengaigon Refineries had raised their selling prices from Rs. 21,000 to Rs. 23,500 per tonne with effect from August 8, 1988. Reliance Industries, the only PTA manufacturer in the country, had also hiked its selling price from Rs. 23,650 to Rs. 26,500 per tonne from the same date.

DMT and PTA are the major raw materials for polyester industry. The price hike was demanded by the DMT/PTA manufacturers due to high cost of paraxylene, their major raw material. In the absence of domestic availability of paraxylene, Bombay Dyeing relies on 100 per cent imports.

Over the last few months the paraxylene price in the international market has gone up considerably and additionally the import duty on paraxylene was raised from 35 per cent to 120 per cent ad valorem in March 1988.

"This increase, coupled with the rise in the international price of paraxylene and the fall in the value of the rupse, has resulted in a two-fold increase in the landed cost of paraxylene, from Rs. 10,200 per tonne to a staggering Rs. 21,600 today. Of this hike of Rs. 11,400 per tonne, as much as Rs. 7,000 is accounted for by the increase in the import duty," Bombay Dyaing claimed in a statement issued in Bombay on August 19.

The company had represented to the government that all manufacturers of DMT and PTA should have equivalent input costs and for which imports duty on paraxylone should be reduced appropriately. "In the absence of a decision so far on this matter, it has now become impossible for us to continue to absorb the abnormally high cost of paraxylone, as we have done for over five months," the company stated.

During the first four months of 1983, the company's DMT plant had operated at 105 per cent of its rated capacity. This limits any major cost economies that management can make. We are, therefore most reluctantly, and as a

last resort, raising our selling price of DMT to Rs, 27,000 per tonne explant," according to the statement.

"Being dependent 100 per cent on imported paraxylane, our price increase has, of necessity, to be larger than those who rely either fully or substantially on captively produced paraxylane. Should the government reduce the paraxylane duty to equate our paraxylane costs with that of other producers, we will be glad to review our selling price," the company added.

#### PRESSURE ON FIBRE UNITS

The hike in the DMT price of Rs 6,000 per tonner by Bombay Dyeing has generated lots of confusion in the polyester industry.

The DMT consumers, who get supplies from IPCL and Bongaigon Refineries will receive it at Rs. 23,500 per towns, while those depending on Bembay Dyeing will have to pay Rs 27,000. Further, PTA will be available cheaper at Rs 26,500. All DMT/PTA consumers, however, will have to sell their polyester fibre and yarn at competive prices.

According to a major DMT consumer of Bombay Dyeing, he will be out of the market unless he sells his product at a less. He said his company has been hit, first by the galloping cost of MEG and now by the DMT price. The government should either allow other DMT/PTA manufacturers to raise their prices accordingly or should ensure that all polyester units receive their raw material at equitable price, he added

This has raised another issue as to whether more units will prefer to go in for PTA. The problem, however, is whether Reliance Industries is in a position to most any additional demand, after meeting its captive consumption and the needs of four units who have decided to switchover to PTA.

#### TEXTILES MILLS STRIKE : DYESTUFF INDUSTRY DIVERSIFIES

The dvestuff industry is coming out of the woods after a terrid time in the wake of the textile mills strike.

According to a study by the commerco research bureau in Bombay the 18-month-old strike in 1982-83 has forced the decaying industry to increasingly diversify and broad-base the product range thereby reducing its dipendence on the textile sector to a large extent.

Large and medium units have started shifting their product mix in favour of more technologically sophisticated products. Exports have also perked up to view of the advanced countries' preference to import their requirements.

Dyestuffs are consumed mainly be textile, paints, printing ink and paper industries. Other consumers include coir, jute, leather, plastics; foodstuffs and cosmetics. The textile industry consumers more than 80 per cent of the total dyestuff production.

The number of establishments in the small scale sector was estimated at 900 in 1984 and the production estimate was put at 5,500 tonnes, around 25 per cent of the total production.

Toxille fibre consumption in 1970-80 increased by 43 per cent while the population grew by 27 per cent, the difference reflecting the increase in the par capita consumption of textile fibras. Dyestuff consumption grew at 93 per cent for the same period due to increased production of coloured fabrics, particularly printed fabrics where consumption of dyestuff is higher.

The present per capita consumption of cloth in India at 15 metres/annum is one of the lowest in the world. It is expected to increase to 19 metres by the end of the Seventh Plan (1989-90).

Based on the past trends, the consumption in textile and other industries is projected to grow to about 62 gm in 2000 from 39 gms in 1980. Howover, this figure is also less than the world average of 200 gms.

#### MAFATLAL DYES

Despite a drop in net sales to Rs. 20.57 crores from Rs. 22.29 crores. Mafatlal Dyes, and Chemicals earned a higher gross profit of Rs. 97.96 lakhs during the first six-month period ended June 1983 against Rs. 90.10 lakhs in the same period last year.

The net profit is also better at Rs. 50.73 lakhs against Rs. 47.80 lakhs after depreciation (Rs. 7.44 lakhs against Rs. 7.40 lakhs) and taxation (Rs. 39.79 lakhs against Rs. 34.90.

## Acetic acid from methanol

loo nily there was some controversy acetic acid production from metharoule. The alcohol-based industries natural that the country has chough alled capacity of acetic acid based alcohol as the feeds ock. It is oped to setting up of any acetic acid soily using methanel as the foodck, which in turn is produced from . The irea, is the condition xng acetic acid manufacturers had applied to the Government for aceacid manufacture based on methain 1986 along with some other apitions. The Government after taking o considuration several factors, had en a conscious decision in the end 1986 on giving letter of intent to arct Narmada Valley For Just Co. NFC) for producing 40,000 tpa acoacid using methanol as the feedock (for which it has a licence for 03,000 tpa).

Recen'ly some structural changes ve taken place in the alcohol and

viz. IEL clused down its plant for the manufacture of LDPE in West Bengal However, there are rejords that this second hand plant has been bought for installation in UP. The second plant viz. Synthetics and Chemicals resorted to imported butadiene instead of produ-Cing the same us it a och I which they have been doing all these years. The finird plant vix. Unan Carbida is closed down in Thane on the grounds that it is not safe to operate. The reasons for this state of affairs is largely dua to short term policies followed by state governments in pricing alcohol, levying excise duty, transfer duties and so called 'export duties'. If alcohol is really going to be surplus, should not the country consider setting up import substitute products, butanol and butadiene to name some. The foreign exchange savings shall be enormous, Further, using acetaldehyde as the building block, some products other than acetic acid and could also be considered. It may also be worth considering blending alconol with motor spirit,

which we have, of late realized that our demand exceeds that produced by our refineries, thanks to the liberal automobile policy of Government

It may be added here that All India Alcohol Based Industries Development Association has always been representing that its members do not get adequate quantities of alcohol for operating their plants to fairly good capacities, Even though acstaldehyde and acstic acid plants are scattered all over the country, one finds transportation of in se commodities over long distances e.g. from UP/B har, Maharashtra to Rajusthan/Gujarat. Though statistics show that adequate installed/approved capacity of ace ic acid exists in the country, some of the units have closed without any chance of their reopening. Further, efficiencies of some of the plants also need a review. Moreover, demend of acetic acid is increasing in dyes and pharmaceuticals.

It may be mentioned here that whenever a proposal for alcohol-based project is put up by an 'alcohol deficit' State, it is rejected on the grounds of non-availability of alcohol in that State,



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When the 'alcohol deficit' States put up a proposal for a project using an alternate feedstock to alcohol, it also does not find favour because alcohol is available in other 'surplus' States. This policy acts as a hindrance to development. Moreover, the difficulties in getting inter-state alcohol allocation and release in addition to high cost of transportation are too well known to need any elaboration.

When large PTA plants are being considered in the country, with an investment in excess of Rs 100 crores for each of the plants, this investment needs to be supported with assured and dependable supply of various inputs including acetic acid. This could only be possible if large plants of acetic acid are set up, based on feedstocks other than agrobased. Considering the fact that a PTA plant is being set up in the western region which also has large gas reserves, the choice of location and feedstock for acetic acid plant are obvious. We may also learn from the track record of alcohol as well as acetic acid production in the country and create a base for an alternate feedstock, more so when it is abundantly available. Such a proposal also needs encouragement from lower cost of production angle. We seem to be living in a high cost economy for so long that we do not want to come out it. With suitable pricing of gas and fuel, acetic acid based on methanol can be much cheaper than the current ruling prices.

From time to time, the Government of India had appointed expert committees for studying alcohol based industries. It is likely that some of the earlier recommendations are not valid today in view of changing scenario However, the latest report of Dr. Ganguly Committee on alcohol based industries merits immediate consideration of Government.

In summary, the fact remains that some of the existing alcohol based acetic acid plants have closed down and some are inefficient/obsolete. There have been wide fluctuations in the prices of indigenous acetic acid in addition to erratic supplies at times, necessitating imports. Existing acetic acid plants, having low book values, can be encouraged to switch over to import substitute products, using acetaldehyde as the building block. Acetaldehyde based products may be de-licensed on the fines of phenol based products, delicensed recently. Alcohol, if surplus in the long run, may be used in producing import substitute products and in blending with motor spirit to supple-, ment the ever increasing fuel needs of automobiles. Such steps are likely to result into enormous savings of foreign exchange against one time cost of technology for acetic acid based on methanol Large acetic acid plants, using gas based methanol, can only ensure consistent supply to large PTA plants There is also a need of utilizing gas

for purposes other than fertilizers, s rochemicals and power generation.

It has been the policy of the Go rnment of India to encourage new ter nologies as a step to enter 21st center with the prime objectives of bringi down cost of production by taking a vantage of economies of scale a encouraging adequate availability products with fair competition. proposal of encouraging methanol b sed acetic acid plants is in line wi the Government of India's policy ai should not be blocked at this advance stage, when GNFC has gone ahead ar finalised foreign collaboration agre ment with the process licensor. It me be mentioned that Monsanto had dev loped the process of manufacturing acetic acid from methanol and the are very few plants in the world which are licensed to this technology. GNF was successful in negotiating this later technology for the first time in Indi from B.P. Chemicals, UK who are th sub licensors of this technology an have signed FC agreement. B.P. Che micals have now decided not to licen ce this technology to new incumbents

GNFC also finalised foreign contract tors for carrying out the detailed engineering for this Rs. 70-crore (approx project after evaluating several bids and after due negotiations - A. K. A RATHI in FINANCIAL EXPRESS.

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# SC turns down plea against modis

The Supreme Court has turned down plea of monochloro acetic acid CA) manufacturers that the Modis restrained from implementing their . 180-lakhs MCA project in Alwar, iasthan.

Eight MCA manufacturers had objecd to the proposal of Modi Alkalies d Chemicals Ltd. to set up a 2,000 a plant. Their objections had earlier en turned down by the Monopolies d Restrictive Trade Practices Comission (MRTPC). The Supreme Court held the MRTPC ruling

The MCA manufacturers objected to e proposal on the ground that a large ouse like Modis ought not to enter nis field where medium-size and small cale units are already struggling to ell the product because of stagnant emand. The bulk of MCA is captively onsumed, and trading is only in the egion of 2,500-3,000 tonnes, accordng to industry sources.

The existing units together have round 10,000 tonnes of installed capacity. There are four manufacturers in the organised sector and six smallscale units, out of which three are under the sick list and are beneficiaries

of Government's nursing schemes. The creation of fresh capacity, therefore, is unjustified, they told the court. The third objection was that the Modis are going in for foreign technology which is again unwarranted.

The Modis argued that demand for MCA is bound to increase because of the growth in the consumption of MCAbased weedicides, pesticides and other chemicals. Also, MCA had export potential. It attributed the underutilisation of existing capacity to "inadequate technology."

MCA is made by chlorination acetic acid. (The Modi caustic soda plant has surplus chlorine for captive use). The company will reportedly pay Rs. two crores for purchase of foreign technology. The Regional Research Laboratory of Hyderabad had expressed its inability to provide the technology sought by Modis and hence the decision to go for collaboration.

#### PLEA FOR IMPORT DUTY REDUCTION

The polyester industry has urged tho government to drastically reduce import duty on raw materials such as MEG, DMT and PTA.

This plea has been made in view of the spiralling international prices of these raw materials as also to lessen the impact of the steep hike in their prices effected by indigenous manufacturers.

The Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry, in a representation to the ministries of finance and textiles and to the department of chemicals and petrochemicals, has pleaded for an import duty reduction from the existing level of 195 per cent to 90 per cent ad valorem in the case of DMT/PTA in the case of MEG it has requested for reduction in customs duty from 90 per cent ad valorem to a specific rate of Rs. 1,200 per tonne.

#### PLEA TO REMOVE PRICE CONTROL ON DRUGS

Participants at a seminar conducted by the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists Educational Trust on Aug. 21, demanded removal of the existing price control and abolition or reduction of taxes and duties on medicines, at least on life-saving drugs.

Speaker after speaker at the seminar on 'price control on medicine-its relevance to consumers' said the drug industry was in 'great trouble'.

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# **NEWS DIGEST**

#### RAW MATERIAL PRICE HIKE HITS PAINT UNITS

The paint industry has seen a negative growth of 7.2 per cent for the period April 1987 to February 1988.

Among the reasons for this stunted growth is indiscriminatory' pricing policy for the main raw material titanium dioxide and rutile, according to a press note of the Indian Paint Association.

While the industry is far from healthy, Kerala Metal & Minerals Ltd. (KM-ML), Quiion, sole manufacturer of these raw materials, revised the selling prices of rutile five times in the last two years and quantum-wise it was as much as 66 per cent.

Although the state sector unit has an installed capacity of 24,000 tonnes of rutile and it went into commercial production in December 1984, since the date of commencement of the plant, it produced maximum of 7,000 tonnes per annum.

The press note adds that the raw material, ilmenite for manufacture of rutile is available in abundance in the country. Cost of production of rutile in India cannot be nigher than the cost of production of rutile elsewhere in the world. Yet selling price of KMML rutile is \$4,225 per tonne compared to world price of \$2,300 per tonne.

The association alleges that KMML is exploiting monopoly situation by revising selling price in a manner prejudicial to the interest of the paint industry and the country at large

The latest price increase on July 18 this year amounts to 24.5 per cent in one stroke which has delivered a mortal blow to the already ailing industry.

# CIOLOGICAL E. VENTURES IN POULTRY VACCINES

The Hyderabad-based Biological E. Ltd., a leading manufacturer of life-saving drugs like Neo-Hepatax, ATS and Tripac, is setting up a Rs. 100-lakh joint venture for producing a wide tance of pouliry vaccines in collabora-

tion with the Solvay Group of Belgium world's largest manufacturer of poultry vaccines.

The new company, Solvay B.E. Animal Health Ltd., will begin operations at Gaganpahad in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh to produce modified live poultry vaccines, inactivated poultry vaccines, bacterins and diagnostic aids, according to Mr. Ravl Chowla, Director of the Bombay-based Egg and Poultry Industry Centre (EPIC). According to him, many of the items will be produced for the first time in the country.

With this venture, Indian poultry farmers will have access to the latest technology and experience of Salsbury Laboratories Inc. of US, a subsidiary of Solvay Group. This venture, which was recently approved by the Government, is also the first to have a equity participation from the foreign collaborator, while till date Indian poultry vaccine companies, including the one belonging to Pune-based Venkateswara hatcheries have nad only technical collaborations from abroad, it is said.

The Solvay Group will hold 40 per cent equity and provide certain specific pathogen free egg unit technology to the Indian company free of cost. The new company has planned to manufacture seven important poultry vaccines in the first year to be followed by six more ranges in the second year and another three in the third year.

The agreement provides for training of Indian personnel at Salsbury Lab's veterinary biological facilities in the US and Brazil basides establishing a Salsbury Poultry Health School in India.

#### IICHE OFFICE BEARERS

During the Seventh Annual General Meeting held on 7th August, 1988, the following were elected as members of the Executive Committee of Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers, Ahmedabad Regional Centre, for the year 1988-89:

Chairman: Dr. M. C. Chhat Vice-Chairman: Shri A. K. A. Ra Hon. Secretary: Shri R. N. Shu Hon. Jt. Secretary: Shri D. Bhatta arya, Dr. C. M. Ramasamy; H. Treasurer: Shri H. R. Shah; Memb Shri G. C. Joshi, Shri H. L. K. Shri M. N. Patel, Shri F. B. Vir Shri P. J. Bhatt, Shri M.L. Agaru Immediate Past Chairman: Shri Al P. Sheth.

# NICCO BAGS DSP NAPHTHALENE PLANT CONTRACT

One of the special features of plant offered by Nicco is that it has fully computerised process control, complete operation controlled throwa PC with hot back-up. Nicco's projectivision, which has a Rs. 12-crore perder intake in the two-and-half yes since inception, has made bids for an ther Rs. 55-crore worth of turnk overseas contracts. On the domes front, the company has on hand contracts from a number of clients, inciding NHPC, DSP, Hindustan Zinc at the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority.

## FIRST BENZENE CONSIGNMENT TO ARRIVE SORTLY

The first import consignment of be zene, arranged by the Government case the current shortage of the matrial, is expected to arrive at Kandshortly.

Another import consignment is epocted to arrive by September end, a cording to industry sources in Bomba However, the quantity involved counct be ascertained.

A delegation of chemical manufactors had called on Mr. H. K. Kha Becrutary, Department of Chemical and Petrochemicals, recently. Following his intervention, refineries have begun releasing "small quantities", or manufacturer told 'Financial Express.

VDO-USSR SEMMNAR ON

### ndustrial applications of electron accelerators

An Indo-USSR Seminar on "Industri-Applications of Electron Acceleraors" organised by Bhabha Atomic Reearch Centre (3ARC) and the Acadeof Sciences, USSR will be held dung Nov. 1-3, 1989, at BARC, Bomay. The Seminar is sponsored by the papartment of Science and Technology, overnment of India. The Seminar will nclude presentations by eminent Sovit scientists, covering the manifold aplications of Electron Beam (EB) techology practised in the industry, as also presentations by Indian participants covering areas of potential and immedito applications in the Indian industry. The seminar will enable the Indian industry to obtain first hand information about Electron Beam applications in various spheres of industry.

Objective

In the expanding field of radiation processing Electron Beam (EB) technology has occupied a pre-eminent position today. EB technology enables high speed processing because of the ability of EB machines to deliver large radiation doses in a short time. Hence industrial processes such as wire and cable cross-linking, continuous production of heat shrinkable packaging materials, tubes and insulators, surface curing of coatings and paints on various surfaces, special coatings for audio and video tapes, printing, lithography, routinely employ this technology. EB processes enable producing better quality materials, reduced energy consumption and reduced environmental pollution. EB cured wires and cables, polyethylene foam, polye'hylene pipes for hot water circulation are household products in the developed countries. The other areas of potential applications include flue gas detoxication and sewage sludge hygrenisation, where EB processes have certain unique advanta-

Recognising the importance of this technology to the fast developing Indian Industry, this Seminar has been arranged to coincide with the formal commissioning of the industrial research EB accelerator at BARC, Trombay. The Seminar will greatly help in disseminating the latest information on EB irradiation processes and technology and will open up avenues to Indian industry for updating the technology and introducing new products.

#### Programme

The seminar will comprise of presenfations by invited speakers and panning discussions only. It is proposed to bring out the proceedings of the seminar in the form of a publication. The seminar will include visits to E3 accelerator facility and other radiation facilities at BARC.

There is no registration fee for the

Further information can be had from Mr. K. Krishnamurthy, C/o. BARC, Trombay, Bombay

#### MOVE TO EXPORT ENTIRE NALCO OUTPUT RESENTED

The reports that the Government has decided to export the entire alumina and aluminium production of NALCO during 1988-89 has jolted the non-ferrous metals trade and industry which has been already reeling under acuts supply crunch.

In a telegram sent to the Prime MInister, the President, Bombay Metal Exchange Ltd., Mr. Sevantilal Morakhia, has stated that the Government decision is the result of basically wrong data on crucial parametres.

While there is no objection to the export of alumina, the decision to export aluminium at a time when the country has a backlog of shortag3 which will reach alteast 40,000 tonnes by the end of 1988-89 as per the estimate of none other than the Minister of Steel and Mines, would ruin small and medium aluminium user industries, he added.

NALCO's actual production during the year has been progressively scaled down from 1,30,000 tonnes to 80,000 tonnes. Besides, MMTC has stopped imports for more than 10 months. This has created an acute short-supply and the entire scenario was brought to the notice of the Minister for Steel and Mines, Mr. Fotedar, during a dialogue with him on May 30, 1988.

Mr. Morakhia appealed for a thorough re-check of the data and review the decision to export aluminium,

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LEAD ACETATE BROMO BENZENE

### No proposal yet from UC Chembur labour

The Industries Minister, Mr. J. Vengal Rao assured the Lok Sabha that the Centre would sympathetically consider handing over the Chembur unit of Union Carbide to the workers if they formed a co-operative society.

The unit, which produces a vital raw material for the plastic industry, has been closed for about a year, but workers are being paid wages.

Replying to a half-hour discussion on the subject, raised by Mr. Sharad Dighe, Mr. Rao said the workers had neither formed a co-operative society nor forwarded any concrete proposal for takeover.

Replying to persistent demands from members from both sides that the Government either take over the unit or merge it with the public sector Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IP-CL), the Minister said IPCL was against this because of its location and the hazardous nature of the unit.

Mr. Rao said even if the Government wanted to take over the unit over, it has to be shifted from Chembur, with the Maharashtra Government having already issued notice for shifting the plant on environmental grounds.

He agreed with members that there is acute shortage of the raw material, low density polyethylene in the country and a large quantity is being imported every year.

On the reported move of the company to sell the plant to a third party, the Minister pointed out that any prospective buyer would have to deposit the necessary money with the court.

Mr. Rao said the Government is considering various suggestions made to revive the unit keeping in view the litigation it is entangled in with Union Carbide at Bhopal.

Members decried the Government's rigid stand on the ground that a tragic incident had already taken place at Bhopal unit of this company.

This is stretching too far. More over the Chembur unit's product mix is entirely different from that of the Bhopal unit, they argued.

With the closure of the Chembur unit, various sugar mills in Maharash-

tra are facing the problem of storing 800,080 tonnes of industrial alcohol which this unit was consuming, they pointed out.

Some members asked why the Minister had sought the opinion of the Attorney General of India for taking over the unit.

Pacifying the members, Mr. Rao said the issue is being examined at length, particularly in the light of the Bhopal litigation.

### METHANOL PROJECT: CHHABRIAS MOU WITH GIIC

The woll-known Chhabria group has joined hands with the Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation (GIIC) for setting up a project to manufacture various grades of methanol.

A memorandum of understanding for setting up the project was signing in Ahmedabad recently by Mr. M. R. Chhabria, Chairman of Chhabria group of companies and Mr. S. K. Shelat, Managing Director of GIIC.

In the course of his one-day visit to Ahmedabad, Mr. Chhabria also signed two other memoranda of undersanding. Of these, one was with Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd. (GA-CL), a company promoted by GIIC, for the manufacture of secondary alkyl sulphonates (SAS). The other one was with Gujarat Communications and Electronics Ltd. (GCEL) to participate in Gujarat Data Electronics Ltd.

The Managing Director of GACL. Dr. P. K. Das and the Managing Director of GCEL, Mr. N. Gopalswami, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective companies.

GACL is considering to set up the SAS plant with the collaboration of Hoechst, West Germany. GIIC and the Chhabria group will work together to develop various grades of methanol.

### OIL REFINING CAPACITY TO GO UP ONLY 3,15 M.T. BY '92

The current oil refining capacity in in the country is projected to increase by only 3.15 million tonnes by 1992, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Aug. 22nd.

The proposed refining capacity 1992 is 51.85 million tonnes, as compared to the current refining capacit of 48.70 million tonnes, the Minister for Petroleum, Mr. Brahm Dutt, sai in a written answer.

The Minister said the ownership of additional refining capacity would be decided on economic consideration rather than on the interest of oil companies.

Answering another question, the Minister said the Government had approved the formation of a joint venture company with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and IRIL as co-promoters for setting up the Mangalore refinery.

The initial shareholding by HPC! and IRIL would be 26 per cent each The balance equity participation would be by the public, including non-resident Indians.

The joint venture company would prepare a detailed project report within 12 months from the date of incorporation of the joint venture and submit the same for Government approval.

He said the decision to go in for a joint venture was made with a view to getting additional resources for the project.

### FLUIDIZED-BED REACTOR FROM BARC

A fluidized-bed roactor system which ensures uniform incineration of westes at a relatively low temperature in a continuous manner has been designed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

Wet polystyrene type ion exchange resins are widely used in nuclear industry, particularly in the primary heat transport (PHT) system of nuclear reactors. Incineration is an effective method to reduce the volume of low active waste materials from such ion exchange systems before the final disposal.

According to a BARC release, trial runs of the incinerator have given encouraging results in respect of both volume reduction and trapping of fine particulate material.

The system consists of the main fluidized-bed reactor connected to an off gas cleaning unit. The facility for close control of temperature in the bed supresses the escape of waste since it gets fixed in the bed itself.

#### ERMEDIATES SUPPLY:

## PSUs seek inputs at global prices

public sector units are seeking raw erials at international prices in refor supplying intermediates to exters at global prices against surrenof advance licences.

he proposal to supply intermediates exporters at world prices is part of hort-term strategy paper prepared by Commerce Ministry, which was cussed and approved by the Cabinet mmittee on Exports held under the airmanship of the Prime Minister rently.

As per the scheme, public sector its like Indian Oil Corporation, Hinstan Organic Chemicals Ltd. and eel Authority of India Ltd., would be rected to supply chemical and other w materials needed by exporters of ugs, dyes, agro-chemicals and plases. The operational details of the theme are yet to be worked out.

The idea was first mooted by Mr. amu Deora, President of the Federaon of Indian Export Organisations FIEO), who wanted the public sector nits to reserve 10 per cent of their roduction for distribution to exporters t global prices. His proposal envisged the following steps to compensate ne units for suppying material at heaper prices against surrender of adance licences.

Supplies against advance licences/ ass book should be treated as Import, ttracting no sales tax or octroi levies, or public sector units supplies to ex-

porters should be treated on par with physical exports, involving fiscal benefits under 80 HHC, concessional rate of packing credit, additional ficences, CCS and recognition as export/trading

However, sources in public sector units said that for the chemical indus try, the prime requisite for supply of material at cheaper prices is supply of their feedstocks at international prices, "We cannot sell additional licences at a premium. We should get our feedstock and basic utilities at global prices," they said.

FIEO has requested the Government to expedite the announcement of modalities of the scheme, since five months of the current year had already passed. The scheme should be worked out at the earliest so that the export community could benefit.

As per the July 29 notification, the Government has announced input-output norms for 354 items under Appendix 13C. If the modus operandi of the intermediate supply scheme is announced without delay, the country's export could be lifted to Rs, 20,000 crores as against the estimate of Rs. 18,795 crores.

### PRODUCTION LOSS AT HZL

The Vizag unit of Hindustan Limited (HZL)) incurred a production loss of 5,200 tonnes in the four-month period April-July this year on account

of the 80 per cent power cut imposed by the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board. The unit was getting only 4 MW during March 14-July 28 against its requirement of 20 MW

The total domestic production of zinc dropped from 76,366 tonnes in In 1986-87 to 60,577 tonnes in 1987-88 because of shortage of power and water. Total imports of the metal by MMTC increased from 42,029 tonnes In 1986-87 to 52,528 tonnes in 1987-88.

The net loss of production of the metal suffered by HZL because of power cut in 1988-89 (upto July 1988) was 2,955 tonnes taking into account the loss which could be offset to some extent by power made available from captive diesel generating sets.

The price of zinc was raised thirteen times during the last three years (September 1986-August 1988).

The value (in crores of rupees) of tin and copper imported by MMTC during 1986-87 and 1987-88 is given below:

Year	Tin	Copper
1986-87	27.38	78.31
1987-88	18.82	215.07

The value of tin and copper produced in the country in the same period (Rs. in crores)

Year .		Tin	(wire bar)
1986-87			102.62
1987-88		.06	129.13

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### NRDC awards for inventions

The National Research Development orporation (NRDC) has announced the 988 Independence Day awards for movative inventions under its promoon programme. A total of 19 people hare the cash awards amounting to Rs., 6 lakhs and certificates of merit for 0 inventions in key areas of national moortance.

The Corporation has also declared the awards of gold and silver medals ponsored by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIFO) for 1987 and 1988. While one gold medal has been shared by two, the other gold and silver medals have been awarded addividually.

WIPO is one of the specialised agencies of the United Nations and NRDC has been authorised to select suitable inventions for the award.

For the NRDC awards, Mr. Shailendra Sharma, Mr. Ravindra Hiralal Auluck. Mr. E. Hari Babu and Mr. Syed Aslam of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., Hyderabad, have been jointly awarded a sum of Rs. 35,000 for developing erosion-resistant tungsten carbide thermo weils which are used in thermal power boiler furnaces.

These new wells will replace the imported stainless steel ones which wear out very fast because of the high silica and ash content of Indian coal.

Mr. V. K. Bassi of V. Automat and Instruments Pvt. I.td., New Delhi, has been awarded Rs. 25,000 for the development of a Interface level controller used in the separation of crude oil from water. The instruments have been supplied to the Oil and Natural Gas Commisstion (ONGC) and the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

Mr. Nitin S. Mehta and Mr.t Madhukar M. Chandekar of Bombay have been jointly awarded Rs. 25,000 for inventing an open width vacuum hydroextractor which is used in the textile industry for the removal of process liquor from wet fabric. Apart from a saving of 40-50 per cent of thermal energy, the device also increases the total production by 30-50 per cent.

Mr. G. Mathiyalagan, Mr. S. Vijavarangam and Mr. S. Ranganathan of BHEL (Tiruchi) get Rs. 10,000 for de-

veloping an improved flame scanner used to monitor the flame in boilers and thus protect furnaces from explosions

Dr. Vinod Shankar Saxena and Dr. Sarnam Singh Tomar of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, have been awarded a certificate of merit for formulating a more effective insecticide for DDT-resistant insects. It contains 25 per cent DDT and an inactive isomer of benzene hexachloride.

Dr. S. Sekar and Mr. A. Marimuthu of BHEL (Ranipet) have also been awarded a certificate of merit for the development of digital on-off centroller for electrostatic precipitators used for preventing air pollution from thermal power plants.

The 1988 award of gold medal goes to Mr. Anant B. Marathe and Mr. Balkrishna B. Bapat of Maratha Research Foundation for developing a martex threshold relay. It can be used for the

protection of electrical Induction motors from single phasing, electrical or mechanical overload or loose connections. The silver medal has been bagged by Mr. Devendra S. Naik of Surat for an economical jet dyeing machine. It lowers power consumption, utilises less space and reduces operating cost.

### SHRAM AWARDS

The Union Government announced recently the Prime Minister's Shram awards for 1988 to 15 workers including two women in recognition of their outs'anding cotribution towards production and exemplary zeal and enthusiasm in discharge of their duties.

The Shram Bhushan award has been shared by a team of five workers from the State-owned National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ramagundam super thermal power project, Andhra Pradesh. They are Mr. K, S. N. Raju Mr. R. Christopher, Mr. S. V. V. Pulla Rao, Mr. S. C. Raju and Mr. Rajesh Kumar.

The group made significant contributions through innovative ideas in ash

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handling which resulted in tremendous saving.

There is no Shram Ratan award winner this year also.

The Shram Vir award winners are Mr. P. D. Simon from Zircaloy Fabrication Plant in Andhra Pradesh, Mr. K. K. Ponnappan from Hindustan Photo Films, Tamil Nadu, Mr. Kedarnath Choudhury from SAIL, Rourkela and Mr. S. K. Nandi and Mr. G. D. Lohar from Ordnance factory, Maharashtra.

Shram Shri awardees are Mr. S. 8. Balasundaram from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Mr. P. A. Thomas from BHEL Hardwar and Deolal Mistry from Karhafa colliery, Ranchi.

The women recipients of the Shram Devi awards are Mrs. Sheala Mishra of Indian Telephones, Rae Bareli and Mrs. Raisa Begum of BHEL, Bhopal.

The Government has also announced awards for the best technology development through indigenous research and development efforts and for control of pollution and hazards in the chemical industry.

The Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dolhi and Engineers India Ltd., New Delhi will get the first award jointly for excellence in technology development. They developed a process for extraction of aromatics from naphtha streams, a technology being implemented successfully by the refineries.

Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL) will receive the award for confrol of pollution and hazards in the chemical industry. IPCL achieved 10 spells of more than one million manhours and one spell of more than three million manhours without any accident.

The awards were instituted by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

### SLIGHT RISE IN FERTILISER CONSUMPTION LIKELY

Fertiliser consumption this kharif season will be merely 10 to 15 percent more than during the last kharif, good monsoon this season notwith-standing.

This prediction has been made by

Mr. Pratap Narain, executive directed of the Fertiliser Association of India

Addressing members of the forum of agro-rural media farm in New Delhi recently, Mr. Narain also said that according to his estimate, foodgrains production this year will be 160 million tonnes as against the official target of 166 million tonnes.

He said that the uncertainty on important policy matters with respect to production, marketing and pricin should be avoided in order to ensur rapid growth.

Mr. Narain said that apart from other compelling reasons such as employment and growth, continued thrus on setting up fertiliser capacity within the country besides ensuring the health of existing units, is imperative to prevent difficulties and even exploitation the international market which may arise due to neglect of Indian agriculture.

### GSFC RECORDS INCREASE IN GUTPUT SALES

The Gujarat State Fertilizer Co (GSFC) has recorded a substantial in crease in the production and sales of fertilisers and industrial products over the previous year.

A review of GSFC's current year's overall performance during the first seven months has indicated that the production of fertilisers has been 6,57,040 tonnes as against 4,44,440 tonnes in the previous year, registering an increase of 48 per cent.

Similarly, the offtake of fertilisers has also recorded a substantial increase of 114, 74 per cent with 4,15, 310 tonnes of sales for the current year as against 1,93,397 tonnes of the corresponding period of last year.

GSFC's fertiliser production target for the 12-month period of the current year has been set at 10 lakhs tonnes with a matching sales target. The current year's bright agricultural prospects due to good monsoon will give a boost to fortiliser off-take and the company expects to distribute the entire production during the kharif and rabi seasons.

The performance in respect of the industrial products has also been equally impressive. Caprolactum production has shown an increase of 47 per cent with 11,800 tonnes as against 8,000 tonnes during the previous year.

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### Duty cut to cost Rs. 200 cr.

The Union Government would be losing an estimated Rs. 200 crores in a year, following its decision to reduce the import du'y on machinery and equipment for electric power generation for captive use by industries.

There is, however, no firm estimate of the revenue loss on account of the duty reduction, as this would depend on the number of units setting up imported captive power plants after being encouraged by the duty relief.

A recent notification had fixed the new import duties at 35 per cent advalorem on generating sets of capacity ranging between 2.5 mw and 50 mw and 25 per cent ad valorem on sets of capacity above 50 mw. Earlier, the duty on all such captive diesel generating sets was 85 per cent, if these were imported by industry.

According to the Government, even though revenue loss may be a substantial amount, the concession would go a long way in overcoming the shortage of power for industrial production. Industry had all along been clamouring that power shortage is affecting its production and it could not import generating sets at reasonable prices, as the duties are nigh. There is also a a shortage of indigenously available generating sets, it is stated.

The Government notification, which was issued in response to this plea of industry, would be valid up to March

31, 1989. The reduced duty would not be applicable only when the sets use fuel other than low sulphur heavy stock or heavy petroleum stock and when the sets are imported as part of a project. The project import duty rates for such generating sets are different.

Imports of such sets on reduced duty would also have to produce necessary certificates from the Directorate General of Technical Development (DGTD) or from the Commissioner of Industries of the State Government concerned.

### BINNY TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN WIND MILLS PROJECT

Binny Engineers Ltd, will be actively involved in a Rs. 10-crore project proposed to be set up in Tamil Nadu by a Delhi-based company to manufacture wind mills with Danish technology.

The project, likely to be located near Madras, is being established by Vestas RRB India Ltd., a venture promoted by RRB Consultants and Engineers Ltd. in collaboration with Vestas Wind Systems, Denmark, a world leader in the field.

Mr. Rakesh Bakshi, Managing Director of RRB group told newsmen that Binny Engineering will supply on a long-term basis (20 years) 60 per cent of the wind mill machine components

and fabricated steel parts for the project,

This will prove a major diversification for the engineering division as a will get orders to the tune of Rs. 6 lakhs in the manufacture at a cost of 12 lakhs.

The company has plans to manufacture in a year 100 wind mills each of 100 KW and another 100 units each of 200 KW. In the first year, it intends to make 50 units. The Danish company is providing 25 per cent equity capital.

The production will commence within a period of 12 months. The manufacture of turbines falls under delicensed category and the Government is expected to clear the foreign collaboration within a month.

Mr. Bakshi said the company will seriously pursue the indigenisation programme and the content is expected to be 80 per cent in the second year of operation. There is also a proposal to establish wind parks' in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

He said Vestas, is the largest manufacturer of wind turbines with proven technology and more than 3000 units are installed in over 10 countries.

RRB is also active in the field of nonconventional energy sources and has commissioned on a turn-key basis Veslas wind electric generators (55 kw to 90 kw capacity each) in States like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Madhva Pradesh.

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## COMPANY NOTES

### CT SETS NEW RECORDS

The Fertilisers and Chemicals avancore Limited (FACT) contied to maintain its good perforance in production in July, FA-T, which had exceeded its proaction targets during the first uarter, exceeded its production rgets for nutrient Nitrogen and utrient P2O5. The production of utrient Nitrogen was 23,258 tones against the target 21,988 tones improving upon the targets by .7 per cent. In respect of nutrint P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> the production of 12,273 onnes was 26.25 per cent higher han the target of 9,720 tonnes.

Total production of fertilisers during the four months of the curent financial year ending July 31,

was 3,25,768 tonnes which had shown an increase of 34 per cent over the total production of 242,-862 tonnes during the corresponding period last year. The sulphuric acid plant of Cochin division of FACT registered a record monthly production of 30,650 tonnes in July improving the previous best of 29,955 tonnes in October 19-85.

performance of the first quarter by achieving a sales of 1.10 lakh tonnes of fertilisers in July against the month's target of 1.01 lakh tonnes, i.e., an achievement of 109 per cent of the target. The sales for the period April-July is 3.3 lakh tonnes against the target of 2.68 lakh tonnes — an increase of 25 per cent.

### GAL TO MERGE WITH ATUL

The Gujarat Aromatics Ltd. (GAL), a sick unit of the Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation (GCCI) in joint sector, would soon amalgamate with the Atul Products Ltd. of Lalbhai group saving about 300 persons from losing their jobs.

GAL had been incurring losses due to lack of demand for its main product mix cresols. Atulhas planned new product-line to to increase the plant's capacity utilisation.

Atul's own performance during the first six months was better than the corresponding period last year. Its cumulative sales increased from Rs. 36.63 crores to Rs. 57.24 crores while profits before depreciation increased from Rs. 0.72 crore to Rs. 4.06 crores, a company release said.

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### Gujarat State Fertiliser Company

A handsome dividend amount of Rs. 3.82 crores has been given by the Gujarat State Fertilizers Company to the Gujarat Government for the year 1987 on its investment in the Company's equity share capital. This dividend disbursement gave a return of 87% on the Government's original investment in the equity of Rs. 4.41 crores in GSFC. At the present stock market prices Rs. 121 per GSFC share, the value of this investment stood at Rs. 154.18 crores which was almost 35 times of the value of original equity investment. GSFC's Chairman Mr. H. R. Patankar accompanied by the Managing Director Mr. P. V. Swaminathan presented a cheque for the dividend

amount to the Chief Minister Mr. Amarshinh Chowdhary at Gandhinagar on July 4. GSFC's Chief Financial Controller Mr. P. V. Joshi was also present on this occasion, GSFC has been regularly paying dividend to the State Government for the last ninteen years and it had so far given an amount of Rs. 30.26 crores to the State Government by way of dividend on its equity and preference shares.

The State Government's investment in GSFC has been most rewarding. In the Company's total equity capital of about Rs. 9 crores, the State Government's original share was Rs. 4.41 crores. With the four bonus issues the Government's original investment of Rs. 4.41 crores rose to R 12.74 crores.

From a small fertilizer uni GSFC has today grown into mult monolith of inulti-plants, products, multi-technologies an multi-locational complex with a excellent productivity record and a strong financial base and I was for this reason that the Com pany could weather the las three years' severe drought situa tion coupled with glut and othe bottlenecks and turned out good results for the year 1987 through diversification and judicious corporate management. The dividend was raised to 30% from 27% on the enlarged capital after 3:10 bonus issue which was the highest in the fertilizer industry. The Company's gross block increased to Rs. 314.79 crores from Rs. 260.35 crores and the earning per share went up from Rs. 11.09 to Rs. 13.07 on increased capital.

The Chief Minister was informed that looking to the present indications, GSFC was expected to do better during the current year. The tempo of production and sales had been sustained during the first half of the year. The total production of the fertilizers was substantially higher at over 5.75 lac MT as against 3.74 lac MT of the corresponding period. Similarly the sale of 1.98 lac MT of fertilizer was higher than 1.64 lac MT of the corresponding period. The production and sale of industrial products such as Caprolactam, Nylon-6, Melamine and Argon also registered an upward trend.

The Chief Minister was happy to know that the Company was fully geared to implement the corporate growth plan covering 50,000 TPA capacity Caprolac-



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expansion, 40 MW capacity generation of steam and por project, 10,000 TPA capaci-Melamine expansion and 1350 D Ammonia plant. The Comny also intends to participate the Gujarat Petrochemical mplex at Hajira. All these prots would require a total fundof Rs. 1000 crores of which outlay of Rs. 400 crores has en earmarked for the first pha-. The Company is shortly enring the share market with a nvertible debenture right issue Rs. 150 crores.

#### ATIONAL PEROXIDE

Labour unrest and glut of hyogen peroxide (HP) in the open arket have continued to affect be working of National Peroxide dversely in the current year iso.

Disclosing this at the annual eneral meeting of the company, ne chairman, Mr. Neville N. Wastrike, lia said that workers which began in January, 1988, asted till the first week of May his year and normal production of HP commenced from the middle of June, 1988. As a result, he company produced only 700 tonnes of HP till July-end and sold 260 tonnes. Sales have been lower, mainly due to glut of nearly 1,500 tonnes of imported HP in the market. It is hoped that the company's sales will improve, once the stocks of imported HP is reduced.

Mr. Wadia added that in view of above circumstances, sales during the first four months of the current year are substantially lower at Rs. 1.38 crores against Rs. 4.60 crores in the same period last year.

The company's plastics additives project is now complete and has already commenced trial runs. This project has a bright future since the demand for plastics additives has been on the rise in the country. This item is being used in the manufacture of various grades of PVC. The company will have no difficulty in selling the entire production of plastics additives. When in full production, the annual turnover of this division will be around Rs. 25 crores.

### FANBAXY LABORATORIES

Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. has been awarded the Trishul Award of the Basic Chemicals. Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council for the year 1986-87. The company had bagged the top award for export of

drugs and pharmaceuticals in 1985-86.

Ranbaxy exports both basic drugs and pharmaceutical formulations to over 30 countries. The major markets are western Europe, south-east Asia, Far East, Gulf countries and Africa.

The company's export during 1987 accounted for Rs. 17.47 crores showing a 64 per cent rise over the previous year. Export of the company upto July in the current year amounted to Rs. 12.55 crores. The company hopes to achieve an export target of Rs. 25 crores in the current year.

Ranbaxy has been successfully operating joint ventures in Nigeria, Malaysia and Thailand with marketing tie-up and licensing arrangements for active brand promotion of its products in Cameroon. Oman, Sri Lanka and UAE.



#### BERGER PAINTS

Berger Paints India Ltd., which has recommended one for one bonus issue, has reconstituted its board of directors, Mr. Biji Kurien, the chief executive of the company has been inducted in the new board as Managing Director with effect from September 1. The other new entrant is Mr. S. solicitor K. Mitra, partner of a firm in Calcutta. The board of directors led by Mr. Vijay Mallya will have two old faces: Mr. Brian P. Davis and Mr. Barry A. Tata. Those who have been dropped from the previous board include Mr. C.L. Jain, Dr. E. Beltin and Mr. H.P. Bhagat.

The board has also declared a dividend of 20 per cent for the year ending June 30, 1988. It has also recommended that the company may make a rights-public issue of 12.75 lakhs shares of Rs. 10 each, at a premium of Rs. 35 per share to augment the working capital of the company and normal capital expenditure, Berger Paints last equity issue was a similar rights-cum-public issue of 2.62 lakhs equity shares in 1975. After the bonus issues and the rights-cum-public issue have been completed, over 40 per cent of the company's paidup capital would be out of bonus issue.

The 65-year old company, was set up initially in 1923 as Hadfield India Ltd. It changed its name to British Paints India Ltd. in 1947, when it was acquired by British Paints (Holdings) Ltd. of the UK starting with a 100 people and a sale of Rs. 25 lakhs, Berger Paints India now has 1,100 strong workforce with a turnover of Rs. 77.13 crores,

from the sale of 22,000 tonnes of paints.

During the year, the Hoechst Group sold the worldwide Berger Jenson and Nicholson Group of Paint Companies to Williams Holdings PLC of the UK for a consideration in excess of £130 million. This was a strategic acquisition for Williams who already owned Crown Paints, a major solidation of Crown and Berger operations in the U.K. there will considerably strengthen Williams position in the paint industry in the UK.

Williams in turn, sold the Pacific basis interests of Berger (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji) to the ICI group. The African, Mediterrarnean, Middle Eastern, Asian and Far Eastern interests were acquired by the Consolidated Paints Group of the UK. The consolidated Paints group have assured Berger Paints India of technological and marketing support and have expressed a firm commitment to India.

Berger Paints India has registered a marked growth in sales turnover from 68.89 crores in 1986-87 to Rs. 77.13 crores in 1987-88. After depreciation and taxation the profit stood at Rs. 1.79 crores against previous year's 1.92 crores. Including surplus brought forward, profit available for disposal stood at Rs. 2.56 crores, against Rs. 2.90 crores in 1986-87.

An amount of Rs. 13,622,820 being part of the undistributed profits will be used for paying 1,362,282 ordinary shares of Rs. 10 each to be allotted as fully paid bonus shares.

The board proposed 1,275,436 new shares of Rs. 10 each to be offered for subscription for cash at a premium of Rs. 35 per share in the following manner: (1)

272,456 ordinary shares to the existing members in the ratio one new ordinary share for eve 10 existing ordinary shares he by the members whose name appear in the register of membe of the company on such date a may be determined by the boar (2) 63, 772 ordinary shares b offered for subscription to en (3 ployees of the company,, 127,544 ordinary shares will b offered for subscription to the various business associates the company who are resident In dians and (4) 811,664 ordinar shares will be offered for subs cription to members of public.

### COLOUR-CHEM LTD.

Mr. B. M. Ghia, Chairman, Colour-Chem Ltd., told the shareho ders in Bombay recently that the company's output of textile and leather auxiliaries had to be cutailed in the recent months due to non-availability of acrylic monomers and due to high prices of a few other essential inputs.

Because of this, the company' operations during April-July 1986 have been under pressure although a marginal increase in sale was achieved as compared to sales achieved in the same period of last year.

Mr. Ghia said that profits of dyestuff manufacturers in the organised sector continued to remain slim due to unfair competition from excise-exempted output by the small scale sector.

The recent decision of the government to reduce the all-industriate of duty drawback to 5 percent from 10 per cent would fur their erode the aiready uneconomic return on the capital employed in the dyestuff industry and would be a severe blow to export effort, he added.

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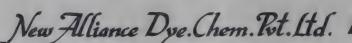
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### **New Plants & Products**

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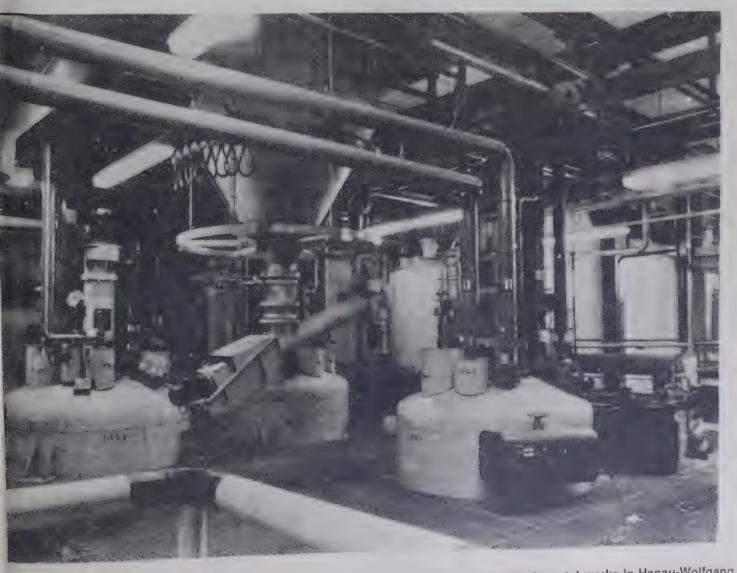
recovery of the precious metals named in the platinum, has been applied the company since 1960. Numers detailed improvements have timised results and capacity has ween expanded to 80 metric needs of the per metals.

The plant and safety equipment are to a large extent processcontrolled. The concentrated caustic soda solution used during recycling makes extensive labour and environmental protection measures necessary. No waste fluid is produced by the process: the resulting aluminate liquor is used to the aluminium industry for further processing. Energy is supplied mainly in the form of steam, generated at the plant by the incineration of photographic paper and film, for example, which pass through another section for the recovery of silver.

The recycling process consists

basically of three phases. Firstly, samples of the catalyst are examined to determine the precise precious metal contents, so that the customer's account can be based on accurate analytical data. The second phase involves processing of the catalyst, during which the accompanying substances -- mainly aluminium oxide and various impurities -- are separated off. In the third phase, the accumulated precious metal is separated and purified to a quality suitable for the production of new catalysts or other products.

During the pre-treatment, the material is weighed accurately and



Pressure autoclaves in the new recycling plant for spent reforming catalysts at Degussa's metal works in Hanau-Wolfgang.

then screened to separate the main catalyst fraction from dust containing a high level of precious metals and coarse particles with no preciousmetal content. The exact preciousmetal contents of the samples which remain after the homogenisation are then determined in an analytical process.

In the second phase -- the recycling - any carbon which may be present is removed from the catalyst by burning up. The spent catalyst is treated with caustic soda solution at a pressure of approximately 10 bar and a temperature of approximately 200°C. Under these conditions the base material -- alumina -- is converted into sodium aluminate, which is decanted from the residual matter. These residues contain the platinum and, in some cases, iridium as well. The platinum metals are dissolved in hydrochloric acid with chlorine and then delivered up as solution to the platinum refinery for further processing.

The platinum purification up to 99.95% minimum is one of the most difficult tasks in inorganic chemistry. The main problem is that the applied separating procedures are not quantitative, so that traces of the platinum metals remain in the mother liquors, remained after each crystallization process. As a result, all the mother liquors must also be recycled in order to achieve satisfactory overall yields.

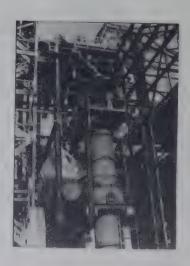
Reforming catalysts are used by the petrochemical industry in mineral oil refining processes. Natural mineral oils contain little or none of the anti-knock benzene which is required, for example, in high-quality fuels with high octane numbers. In the reforming process, the basis principle of which has been applied on a large technical scale since the end of the nineteen-forties, highly knock-resistant hydrocarbons are

produced. The catalysts used in the process are small compacts or other shaped pieces of alumina, coated in most cases with platinum. When the catalyst loses its effectiveness after several years, it must be renewed.

The 25,000-metric ton total mass of catalysts used by approximately 500 reforming plant operators throughout the world contain about 95 metric tons of platinum and 1.5 metric tons of iridium. Approximately 4,000 metric tons of spent catalysts are available for recycling every year. Depending on the quality of the catalysts, the recovery rate at Degussa ranges from 97 to 99% of the platinum content determined by sample analysis. The fact that only 1% of the yearly world's platinum production goes into the petrochemical industry indicates how complete the platinum cycle is in this particular area.

# HIGH-PRESSURE STEAM SUPERHEATER IMPROVES ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF AMMONIA PRODUCTION PROCESS

The high-pressure steam superheater developed by Sulzer has proved to be extremely useful in the large scale production of ammonia.



Assembly of the superheater

Such a superheater, installed in 1000 tonnes per day production plant in Canada, has been in operation since 1983, often at 120% of the design rating. On account of the good result, the production plant has now been supplied with an additional heat exchanger bundle. Moreove during the next standstill, Sulzer it to carry out a residual life analysis on the first superheater bundle.

Ammonia is produced in larg single-line plants (500 to 150 tonnes per day). Costs of the feed stock materials required for the pro duction, e.g. natural gas, are contin ually rising, hence the trend to develop new plants with higher effi ciencies. Such plants require a superheater between the secondary reformer and the high-temperature CO converter. The high-pressure steam superheater consists essentially of many parallel, helical-line tubes and a two-part pressure casing. It cools the gases flowing out of the secondary reformer from 705°C to 371°C at 34 bar inlet pressure. The steam temperatures are 328°C at the inlet (125 bar inlet pressure) and 451°C at the outlet. The amount of thermal energy recovered is such that a significant reduction of the operating costs is obtained.

Further information can be had from Sulzer, CH-8401, Winterthur, Switzerland.

### ESCHER WYSS FLUID-BED DRIER WITH IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND FLUID-BED TECHNOLOGY

Sulzer Escher Wyss, Zurich and Ravensburg, have made an important contribution to improving the economics of drying processes by further development of the fluid-bed drier. The new drying procedure allows the transfer of large quantities of heat even at low temperatures and using the smallest possible

antities of carrier gas. Moreover, d practically as loss-free change reaction, it allows the opetion of closed systems using the aporated product vapour as fluizing gas. In addition to the absoe minimalization of the heat insumption, the inert nission-free nature of the operating ode is further evidence of its ceptional value. Moreover, almost e whole of the energy used for the ying can be utilized further as aste steam.

In order to make this system idely applicable, further developents have been made in the granation and structurizing of product rms not immediately fluidizable, uch as sludges, pastes, suspensons and filter cakes.

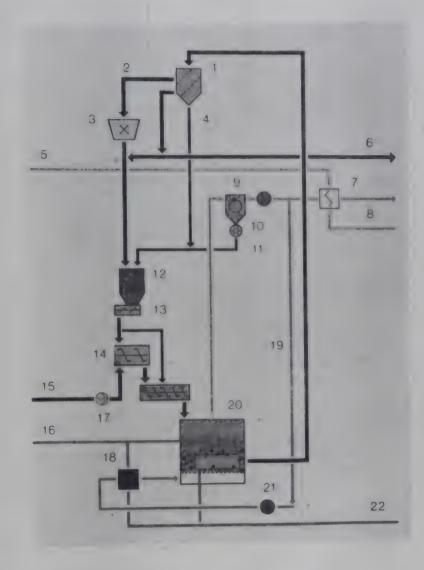
Fluid-bed driers achieve transfer the heat or material required for ying substances in bulk by enforced convection. This is the most frequent functional principle also for rum-, flash- and spray-driers. All ariants have nevertheless to take to account the fact that the drying, as a rule, accomplished at the rice of more or less high losses by onvection.

Further details can be had from ulzer-Escher Wyss AG, Postfach, H-8023, Zurich, Switzerland.

## VATER-COOLED GAS OMPRESSOR OF TRUNKIISTON DESIGN

Sulzer-Burckhardt, Basle, has ecently published a six-page folder rochure entitled "CT -- The trendetting, water-cooled gas compressor of trunk-piston design".

The brochure commences by escribing the special features and pical application areas of these empressors (suction capacity 270-280 m³/h, discharge pressure 25 to



Granulation of paste products and drying of same using heat-exchanger fluid-bed equipment in a closed gas circuit.

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Fluid-bed equipment

300 bar, power input ca. 40 to 130 kW). Information concerning design and materials is provided, as well as details of standard scope of supply, options and instrumentation. Finally, production, quality assurance, research and development, testing and customer support service are briefly outlined.

The brochure is available, free of charge, from: Sulzer-Burckhardt, Engineering Works Ltd., Dornacherstrasse 210, CH-4002, Basle, Switzerland.

## LOW TEMPERATURE DRYING SYSTEMS

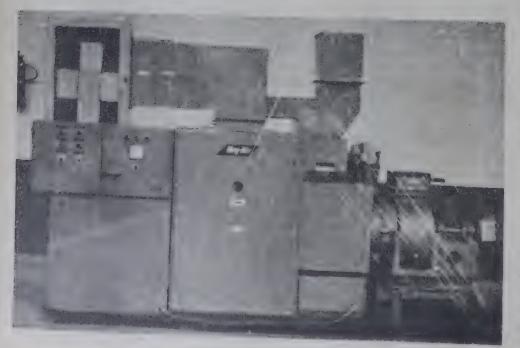
For products which are temperature sensitive, drying at high temperature deteriorates their quality. In such instances, the solution lies in surrounding the product with dry air without the risk of product spoilage. Bry-Air specializes in such types of low temperature drying at temperature below 75°F. Bry-Air dehumidifiers speed up product drying by continuously removing moisture from the surrounding air by a process of physical adsorption where the adsorbent used is a desiccant.

Bry-Air units are custom designed for specific requirements. They are available in different models with different drying capacities.

Bry-Air dehumidifiers find applications in various industries where low temperature drying is required like drying of cocoa, gelatine, yeast, coffee powder, flour, starches, katha, onions, in processing powdery foods like soft drink concentrates, milk powder, sugar, in packaging and storage of biscuits, wafers, snacks and in breweries and distilleries where mold and mildew formation is prevented in hop storages, yeast rooms, fermentation and kegging areas.

The most advanced technology of desiccant dehumidification has been brought to India by Bry-Air India Pvt. Ltd. a joint venture with Bry-Air Inc. U.S.A. Other products from Bry-Air are Plastic Dryers, Heat Recovery System, Mold dehumidification systems, Seed Dryers, Wood dryers, etc.

For more details contact: Arctic India Sales, 20, Rajpur Road, Delhi 110 054.



Low Temperature Drying Systems

## ARTIFICIAL LIMBS WITH CARBON FIBRE BONES

An epoxy resin from Shell Chemicals UK is the basis of a new typof artificial limb. Marketed by J.E. Hanger & Co. Ltd. of Roehampton it has been tested and approved by the Department of Health and is now being issued internationally.

Lightness and strength are the qualities desired for the tubes which lie beneath the plastics "skin" of artifical iimbs. Steel tubes, used previously, were much heavier and no stronger than the new material; alu minium tubes had to be much thicke and therefore lost any advantage in weight.

The new carbon-fibre composite says Mr. McQuirk, the prosthetics manager of J.E. Hanger, is the 'idea material', and has the added bonus that the pultrusion process used to make the 'bones' (or tubes) is very accurate. The pultruded lengths are made by Pultrex, whose business was acquired last year by Fibreforce Composites — a Shell UK subsidiary.

The challenging markets for the limbs are the USA and Japan (Japanese Government approval has already been given), but the limbs are also being marketed throughout Europe, particularly in Scandinavia.

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A new water soluble polymer on the basis of heteropolysaccharide K1A 112 by Georg M. Langer & Co. is suitable for use in latex dyes. The product is characterised by good suspension properties and resistance to running and makes it possible for the required rheological properties to be maintained in line with specifications. (Chemische Industrie, No.1, 1988, p. 26).

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## ALTERNATIVES TO CONVENTIONAL CURING AND HANDLING OF RAW HIDES AND SKINS\*

CATHERINE A. MONEY
CSIRO, Division of Protein Chemistry, Australia

#### TRODUCTION

In many countries, conventional stack curing is being blaced by either green processing of unsalted hides d skins or by alternative salting methods. A great bent for the countries which produce hides and skins is at they can reduce preservation costs and the salinity oblem in effluent. In the U.S.A., Australia, New Zeand and some other countries, increasing numbers of des and skins are being converted to some form of int-processed stock at or near their source. For raw aterial which must be preserved for a longer period affore processing, salt is still the best preservative. The ore efficient modern curing methods require different andling techniques to those used for stack salting.

Green processing and efficient salting methods are all worthwhile if leather quality is maintained or approved. Shortterm preservation is often necessary to event deterioration of hides and skins before they are alted, dried, part-processed or tanned.

### reen Fleshing

Green fleshing has had a major effect on handling of des and has resulted in through-processing to wetue in one drum and better quality tallow and meat meal oduced from fleshings. When hides are fleshed before alting, a better, more even cure is achieved.

Hides are delivered to the fleshing machine from the il floor directly by conveyor or, more commonly, in bins. odern handling techniques and machines enable hides be put on to hooks at floor level, then to be autoatically weighed, sorted into weight ranges, conveyed a raised, through-feed flesher and directed into different bins as they fall down a chute after fleshing. The ides are cooled during the process. The fleshings can be dewatered over a vibrating wedge-wire screen, collected in bins and rendered without delay. The total operation requires only five workers to flesh 300 hides per bur.

Paper presented at the 23rd Tanners Get-Together on the theme "Modernisation of Leather Industry" held in January 1988 at Central Leather Research Institute, Madras.

### Green Processing

Although green processing is mainly associated with wet-blue production, it is also being used in Australia and New Zealand for sheep and lambskins. These skins are either tanned as woolskins or fellmongered to produce both wool and pelts, which are marketed as pickled-pelts.

All types of skins can be processed without salting but problems to be overcome are:

- 1. Uncertainty of delivery times: Additional shifts or short-term preservation are sometimes needed.
- 2. Seasonality: During peak supply periods stock can be held in a part-processed form until there is a reduced supply of raw material. In New Zealand fell-mongeries close in the off-season.
- 3. Complications when it is necessary to process the total output of a meatworks, irrespective of weights and grades: It is an advantage if meatworks will sort stock for different customers but otherwise a processing plant can sort at fleshing and process in different weight ranges.
- 4. Distance between the source of raw material and the processing plant: In some cases new plants have been built, in others, short-term preservation is used during transport.

These disadvantages are often outweighed by the advantages of eliminating the cost of salting, reducing the salinity of efluent, reducing soak times, obtaining green fleshings and improving leather quality.

### **Short-term Preservation**

Short-term preservation was investigated in India nearly 30 years ago (1) and when it was first studied in Australia a zinc chloride treatment developed by George and Krishnamurthy (2) was tested (3) and since then zinc chloride has become one of the recommended treatments (4) used by the Australian industry.

Chemical methods and chilling are now used in Australia mainly to facilitate green processing at wet-

blue plants. The methods in use are all cheaper than salting. Hides are preserved during transportation, over weekends and holidays, in emergencies and when time is needed to build up production packs. Often, preservation is only required for overnight protection and chemical methods are rarely used for more than three day's storage.

The chemical methods are based on the use of either sodium chlorite, calcium hypochlorite, zinc chloride or benzalkonium chloride and are used to preserve hides for upto 6 days at 25°C (Table 1). Addition of fungicides is necessary for storage times greater than three days but chlorinated phenols are not recommended if fleshings or other by-products are to be utilized. Chemical treatments can produce hair loosening due to the action of autolytic enzymes present in the skin (5) and are therefore not always suitable for preservation prior to salting or for tanning of woolskins. Sodium chlorite and benzalkonium chloride can be used for the storage of woolskins for upto 3 days whilst zinc chloride and formaldehyde, which both inhibit enzyme action, can be used for upto 6 day's preservation. Formaldehyde has a tanning action which tightens the wool so it is not suitable if hair or wool are to be removed. Calcium hypochlorite discolours wool.

TABLE-I
RECOMMENDED DRUM AND SOAK TREATMENTS-HIDES, CALF, GOAT AND KANGAROO SKINS

	, , ,			
Maximum num- ber of days' storage at 25°C	% Pre Imprapeli	servati Zinc chloric		Benzalko-
1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
3	0.5	0.3	0.3	. 0.3
6	1.0	0.5	0.6	
Fungicide BAC (50%) Panacide (dichlorophen Sodium tri-	0.05	0.1	0.1 or0.05	
chlorphenate	or 0.1	or 0.1	or 0.1	
% Float (water) Time	<b>Drun</b> 20-50 2 hor	<b>)</b> . • /	Soal 100 ≥ 16 hours	400 Store in
Agitation	≤ 10	r.p.m.	Preferable	liquor Preferable

Drum soak and spray methods have been used but drumming is preferred by industry. Soaking can be carried out in the bins used for transporting hides.

Occasionally short-term preservation has not be adequate and there has been some damage to the resultant leather. Usually either there has been a debefore treatment, the temperature has been too high insufficient chemical has been added. Small scale tripshould be carried out at individual works before production runs are undertaken. The recommended treatment for short-term preservation can be used for soaking dried or salted hides and skins to control bacter growth.

There is now an enormous literature covering che ical short-term preservation and many treatments hat been recommended. Some of these have been copared in the CSIRO laboratory with the methods alreatin use in Australia. No alternative method has yet be tested which is more acceptable when degree of preservation, cost, environment and leather quality are considered. New preservatives are being developed including possible alternatives to chlorine as broad spetrum disinfectants (6) and some of these may be suable for hides and skins (7). Any new, acceptable chemicals should be tested for preservation potentic

Chilling has been used for many years in Australia mainly to hold hides before transport to centralised briting plants but increasingly before green processing. The temperature to which hides and skins should be chilled depends on the required time of preservation. When chilling occurs immediately after removal, hides and skin can be kept for 3 weeks at 0°C, 2 weeks at 5°C, 1 weeks at 10°C, 2 days at 15°C, 1 day at 20°C and less that one day at 25°C. If there is a delay before chilling or slow rate of chilling, the storage time at a particular temperature is reduced. Various chilling methods can be used provided all areas of all hides and skins reach the required temperature. These includes:

- -- spray or bath washing with chilled water
- -- crushed ice e.g. added to collection bins
- -- dry ice particles (carbon dioxide snow)
- -- rapid chilling in a freezer
- hooks on a conveyor in a chiller. The chiller can temporare

The flesh side of skins can partially dry out during ch ling and if these skins are subsequently salted, salt pe etration problems can occur. Moistening the skins befo salting will allow rapid penetration of salt.

A chilling plant has recently started operating in Me bourne, preparing hides for trucking 750 kilometers a wet-blue plant. Hides are hung on hooks on a co tinuous chain which firstly takes them through a high ssure washer, then through a chiller which chills them 5°C in 48 minutes while they drain. Finally they are nveyed out from the hooks. As the hides fall into a te, two men fold them with the hair-side out. When hides are packed into a crate it is taken to the chiller. ur workers, with a rotating forklift, can process 300 les per hour. Before transportation, hides from two ites are combined to give 70 hides in an extended ite. Each crate is covered with plastic and a truckd is covered with a tarpaulin. The hides are being nsported to 750 kilometres in 12 hours and the temrature of the outside hides rises only 2-5°C, even in arm weather. Hides are being kept upto 10 days prior transport and a further 24 hours at the tannery before shing and green processing. In future, the hides may fleshed before packing to reduce weight, and hence insport costs, and to reduce the amount of handling ecessary. Fleshed hides could be emptied directly into e tanning drums from the bins. The chilled hides flesh tremely well.

The total cost per hide is less than 40% of salting costs and the hides do not need a soak. The operation is justiced by the cost savings and improved wet-blue qual-without effluent consideration. Effluent salinity is not problem at either the point of chilling or processing ue to coastal location. For inland areas where salinity a problem, such a chilling system would have additional benefits.

## omparison between Chilling and Chemical lethods

The main advantages of chemical methods are:

- . The continuing protection given during transportation and delays.
- The ease of application, especially in tanning drums or converted concrete mixers.
- Treatments using either sodium chlorite or calcium hypochlorite alone do not affect byproducts or effluent.

The disadvantages of chemical methods are:

- . They are not recommended when temperatures are continuously above 30°C.
- 2. All the chemicals need to be handled with care although some are more hazardous than others.
- 3. Some of the chemicals cannot be used in particular circumstances due to effluent restrictions or contamination of byproducts.
- Loosening of hair or wool can occur within 2 days at 25°C, as already mentioned.

The main advantages of chilling are:

- 1. Meatworks have expertise in refrigeration and sometimes there are facilities for chilling available.
- 2. No pollution.
- 3. No contamination of byproducts.
- 4. Suitable for all hides and skins.
- No hair-loosening. Chilling is therefore suitable for wool skins and hides which will subsequently be cured or tanned with the wool or hair on.

The main disadvantages of chilling are:

- 1. Hides and skins are good insulators and retain the body heat so they should be chilled individually, immediately after removal.
- 2. Damage can occur if low temperature are not maintained during transport.

### A COMPARISON OF CURING METHODS

Brining in raceways, or drums, and drum salting with no added water are labour-saving alternatives to conventional stack salting which are now widely used in Australia. Brining is the most common method used for hides but is not suitable for calf or sheep skins because they are more susceptible to damage than hides and continual re-use of brine allows build up of contaminants and bacteria, even when additives are used. Drum salting is the major method for sheep, calf, goat and kangaroo skins. Until recently customers preferred brined to drum salted cattle and buffalo hides but dry drumming is a simpler process and some companies are now successfully marketing drum salted hides overseas. If care is taken, all curing methods give good results.

In both brining and drum salting the temperature should be kept below 30°C (preferably below 25°C), to prevent "brine draw" and dispersion of fat. Tanners must ensure that their soaking process results in complete rehydration of brine and drum cured hides and an alkaline soak (e.g. 1% sodium carbonate) may sometimes be necessary to overcome brine draw.

During any method of salting, sodium chloride penetrates the hide, some protein is removed and water is released as brine. The water remaining in the hide should be almost saturated with salt. Sufficient salt must be available to all areas of the flesh side of the hide for sufficient time to achieve the required salt uptake. For 'stack' salting, the weight of salt should be approximately one third of the hide weight, but less salt, approximately 20% of hide weight, is required for drum and brine curing as there is less wastage. It is not necessary to wash

hides or skins before salting but if hides are prewashed, more salt is necessary to achieve the required saturation levels.

### Weight of Salted Hides

The weight of a cured hide depends on the salt and moisture content and the amount of flesh, dung and salt adhering to the hide. A cured hide, free of excess salt, weighs less than a green hide. By controlling the brine concentration or the amount of salt offered, hides of similar weight can be produced by both brining and drum salting. However it should be remembered that the higher the ratio of salt to moisture in a hide, the lower the risk of deterioration. The sale of hides by weight unfortunately encourages sale of hides with too much water and the result is unsatisfactory preservation.

### Degree of Cure

It is generally accepted that a cured hide should contain less than 50% moisture and this moisture should be at least 85% saturated with salt, giving an ash-to-moisture ratio in the hide of about 30:100 (30%). In the presence of effective salt additives, an ash-to-moisture ratio of 27-29% does not necessarily indicate inadequate preservation, particularly if analysed immediately after curing, but the aim in curing should be for high salt levels.

#### **Effluent**

All salting methods produce a brine effluent and a 25 Kg hide produces about 5 litres of brine. It has often been thought that brine curing does not result in brine effluent, but when brine is regenerated and reused in either a raceway or a drum, considerable volumes of excess brine are formed.

#### Salt Additives

The use of additional preservatives is strongly recommended for all salting methods. Additives improve the preservation of hides and are essential to prevent wool slip in sheep skins. The bacteria that cause the red discolouration known as "red heat" may not themselves cause hide damage, but hides cured without added preservatives can be contaminated with other bacteria which do cause damage, e.g. hair slip in hides and grain damage in resultant leather. If salted hides are to be kept for only a few weeks at less than 25°C before being processed, preservatives are not so important.

If additives are used, it is not necessary to use expen-

sive stoved (heat sterilised) salts. Initial curing witho preservatives, and subsequent re-curing with preservatives, is not recommended.

For drum or stack salting, 1% sodium fluoride, or 19 naphthalene plus 1% boric acid, calculated as percertages of the weight of salt used, are preservatives which have been used successfully for hides, calf, goat and kangaroo skins. Several other combinations of additive are recommended for sheep skins (see Drum Salting Sodium fluoride is better than naphthalene plus borifucid for preservation at high temperatures, e.g. 35°C Naphthalene is volatile and salts containing naphthalene should not be stored for long periods, especially in warr conditions. Sodium fluoride (NaF) is a poison. Dust inhallation and skin or eye contact may cause irritation and should be avoided by the use of proper protective equipment.

For brine curing the addition of sodium fluoride is recommended, and a minimum amount equal to 0.3% of hide weight is required. Higher levels of NaF give every better preservation and control of red heat.

With salts of high calcium or magnesium content (ove 0.05%, i.e. 500 p.p.m.), sodium fluoride precipitates insoluble, inactive calcium and magnesium fluorides and additional fluoride is necessary to control bacteria growth.

### **Automated Salting**

Salting can be automated, e.g. calfskins can be salted on conveyor belts using an automated system then immediately folded and packed for shipment.

### **Brine Curing**

Australian hides are being brined in raceways, hide processors, mixers and drums. The brines are reused indefinitely and are continuously screened through wedge wire screens, to remove solids, then regenerated by passing through a lixator (a tall container of salt). The brine should always be above 90% Salinometer (90% saturated); the higher the better. Wedge wire screens remove hair and larger solids but not dirt and sediment, which could be removed by installing a settling tank for sedimentator before the lixator.

In some cases brines are heat treated to reduce bacteria, protein and accumulated solids but although used brines look dirty, it is not necessary to heat treat them if additives, e.g. sodium fluoride are used to control bacterial growth on the hides.

lides and skins should be agitated in the brine for 24 hours in order to achieve a satisfactory level of e. Agitation times of 16 hours are common but the e will depend on the system used, the degree of sattion of the brine and the thickness of the hides. The propriate time for a particular plant can be determined testing the ash to moisture content of the thickest es processed after a range of agitation times. In eways, a brine float of approximately 500% (i.e. hide: ne of 1:5 by weight) is used and a tank with a capacof 55,000 litres can hold approximately 500 hides. e tanks are fitted with paddles to keep the hides cirating. When mixers or drums are used for brining, proximately 100% float is used and it is therefore sential to continuously recirculate the brines through xator or to add solid salt to provide the hides with sufent salt.

After curing, hides are usually drained on a conveyor fore packing. Sodium fluoride has been successfully ed as a brine additive in Australia for over 10 years. It is recommended level of 0.3% NaF on hide weight adequate for present Australian requirements but one is needed initially, to give a base level in the brine, in the salt. Some works have had problems with coluble fluorides in the system when they use salts the high calcium and magnesium contents.

Although in the past chlorinated phenols have been commended as hide preservatives, due to their toxity they should not be used, especially when byprocts are utilised for human or animal consumption, e.g. shings, sausage casings, dog chews.

### um Salting

In Australia, buffalo and cattle hides and all types of ins are drummed with salt in wooden drums, steel or tre glass hide processors or mixers, or stainless steel tter churns for approximately one hour (skins) or 4-7 urs (hides). The time will depend on the hide thicks and the drumming action, which is less efficient high loading rates. Optimum conditions should be termined for a particular system.

Usually the drum speed is less than 5 r.p.m. but higher seeds have been used for sheep, goat and calf skins thout damage. Higher speeds can lead to heat build and poor grain quality and are not recommended for des which require longer drumming times. Concrete exers have been modified in various ways including anging the drive, reducing the blade depth, putting a cund edge on the blade and sandblasting rough edges

which could damage the skins. Drum salting causes abrasion of drum linings.

The number of skins or hides in a load depends on various factors. A butter churn can hold upto 300 lambskins and an 8 cubic metre mixer can cure 4 tonnes of hide in 4 hours at 4 r.p.m. Hides and skins are loaded either manually, by conveyor systems or using fork lifts to empty bins into drums. Unloading varies for different types of drums. A tray on a fork lift is used to unload butter churns while they are rotating, drums can be emptied through a door into bins and the reverse action of mixers is used to feed out skins.

Salt is usually of medium grain size for hides but sometimes stoved, fine salt is used for sheepskins. Approximately 25% salt, based on green weight, is commonly used although more is necessary if skins are washed before salting. The recommended additives can be premixed with the salt or rotated with the salt before the hides or skins are added.

Salt additives are even more important for skins than they are for hides and they are esential for lamb and sheep skins. The additives used forlamb and sheep skin are 1% zinc chloride plus 1% sodium fluoride, 1% zinc oxide plus 1% boric acid plus 1% sodium metabisulphite, 1% naphthalene plus 1% boric acid (this causes pink discolouration in New Zealand where skins are washed before salting), or 1% sodium fluoride plus 1% boric acid.

After salting, hides and skins are usually allowed to drain for a few days before packing. If hides are laid flat, rather than bundled in a bin, they are easier to fold after draining.

### Storage and Transport of Salted Stock

If there is insufficient salt in hides and skins or no additives present, hair slip and a bad odour may develop during storage. The storage life of well salted hides and skins depends on storage temperature, humidity and the salt additives used.

Hide stores should be well ventilated and designed to keep skins as cool as possible. Very high temperatures of 55°C or 60°C damage well salted stock because the hide structure changes from collagen to gelatin. There is no smell or hair slip but the damage becomes obvious during processing. Dry-salted hides and skins are dried after curing and will withstand high temperature storage. They are often preferred to dried skins.

### Drying

Large numbers of Australian sheep skins are air dried but drum salting is becoming the preferred method of preservation because it is quick and uses less labour. Drying overcomes salt effluent problems and uses solar and wind energy. If skins were fleshed prior to drying, the problems associated with drying would be reduced.

#### OTHER PRESERVATION METHODS

Gamma and electron beam irradiation (8) of hides may be suitable in some circumstances but will require large capital investment.

Freezing is expensive and it is difficult to thaw frozen stock without any deterioration occurring.

#### CONCLUSION

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Although there still appears to be a need for an alternative to salt for preservation, the best alternative at present is to make changes to facilitate green processing. After all, salting is often not necessary, only a c venience which often causes problems.

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## LEATHER ABSTRACTS

ICREASING OPERATING EFFICIENCY, J.H. Haberelal, American Shoe Making, 362 (4) 50, 1988.

This article examines the chances of fulfilling demands or greater 'Operating efficiency'. The question whether his demand is at all appropriate in view of the current enformance level of the Central European Shoe Industrial purposely left open. The primary aim is to search or procedures for increasing plant performance.

MAN MADE ALTERNATIVES TO LEATHER, R. Turner, Shoe & Leather News., CCCLXXI, 3760, 14, 1988.

It is generally agreed that by the year 2000 there will be insufficient leather available to satisfy world footwear production requirements. This is due mainly to the steady rising world population coupled with more countries seeking to develop their economies. This means that synthetic or man-made upper materials are likely to be more important and this paper looks at current developments in synthetic materials.

THE STUDY OF PHYSICAL TESTING OF LEATHERS, J. Lange, Das Leder, 39, 81, 1988.

This paper describes to which level the physical eather test methods have developed. In this first series of reports the problems of climatisation and of taking samples, the agency methods for leather and finishing, he determination of stability of leather furnishing, the determination of reaction to water when put under dynamical stress in the penetrometer and finally a test of continuing tearing are discussed.

PEPSIN SOLUBLE COLLAGEN FROM KANGAROO SKIN, L.J. Stephons, J.A. Werkmeister, J.M. Caire and J.A.M. Ramshaw, *Das Leder*, **3a**, (5) 88, 1988.

Collagen from Kangaroo skin was solubilised using pepsin digestion and purified by NaCl precipitation. The preparation gave type I and type V Collagens which were compared with the equivalent bovine Collagen by samino acid analysis, by examination of cyanogen broamide fragment sizes and by melting temperature determinations. This suggested that brovine and Kangaroo Il Collagens were significantly different, whereas the type IV Collagens were very similar.

There was no evidence for any trypsin soluble type III collagen with Kangaroo preparation.

THE PROPERTIES OF WET BLUE, W-Luck, H. Rosentreter and B. Wehling, Das Leder, 39 (4), 61, 1988.

The content of inorganic cations and anions as well as the COD value of aqueous extracts of commercial wet-blues from various sources was determined. This work was carried out in view of the effluent problems facing tanneries processing wet blues. Large differences were found between wet blues of different origin. Hence the influence of the deliming and pickling process and of various types of chrome tannages was examined by way of matched sides trials. Furthermore, changes in the wet blues during an extended storage period (i.e. 1 year) were studied. For this purpose, the content of bleachable chrome, the acidity and the proneness to mould formation on the leathers are checked. The influence of different tanning processes in this respect was examined and it was observed that in the mould affected areas distinct increase of the pH-value are found. This phenomenon can occur even before any mould becomes visible on the surface of the leather. Uneven dyeings can be the result. By way of matched sides trials, it is shown that this increase of the pH is always liable to happen when formates are used in the tanning process.

IS RESIDUAL LIQUOR WITH ONE MILLIGRAM OF CHROMEOXIDE ATTAINABLE? Kh. Fuchs. Das Leder, 3, (2), 31, 1988.

Chrome pollution of waste water from the tannery is increasingly becoming the number one ecological problem factor for the tanner. In this paper, a new, high exhaustion process is introduced which, at a chromic oxide concentration of 1% calculated on pelt weight, supplies leather of excellent quality.

CHROME RETANNING OF WET BLUE LEATHER WITH HIGH DRAINING, B. Wehpingi H. Rosentreter, Kozaiobuca, 37, 49, 1988.

This paper describes the advantages of retanning with synthetic chrome agents. This enables high draining of chrome in retanning process so that little chrome enters

to waste waters. At the same time the leathers are subjected to retanning and to neutralisation.

NEW WAYS TO MAKE LEATHER WATER RESIST-ANT, B. Higham, World Leather, 1 (1), 27, 1988.

Water repellancy is a property desirable in many leathers nowadays and one need not make leather before making it water resistant. Treatments can be applied in the drum and resultant leather can often be dry cleaned without impairing its properties. In this paper, the author looks at recent developments in Germany.

MICROBIAL INSPECTION OF LEATHER AND ITS CONTROL, H. Gattner, W. Linder and H.U. Neuber. *Das Leder*, **39** (4) 66, 1988.

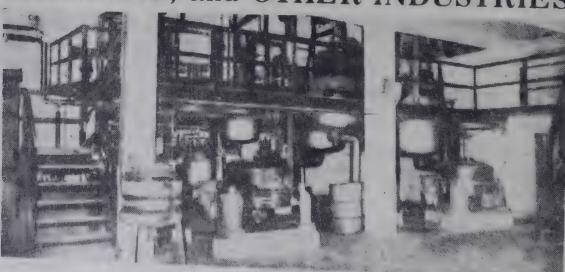
Some new aspects of preservation of Leather with modern fungicides in tanneries are presented. The advantages of combination of active fungicides for the protection of wet blues are stressed especially. Practical hints for severe inhibition of moulds on wet-blue are given, taking into consideration the special partition properties of octylisothiazolinone, methodocarbonylamino-benzimidazole and thiocyanato methothio-benzothiazole. The analysis of the heterocycles of wet blue is performed by HPLC.

THE PRODUCTION OF SOLUBLE PROTEINS FROM WOOL WASTES, H.H. Mies and H. Zahu. *Das Lede* **39,** (4), 73, 1988.

Black wool parts are produced with the aid of a surphuric treatment during the carbonising of wool with parts of plants as well as during the following teasel process. These parts cannot be used for textile purposes. As this material consists of 70-75% wool fibre waste and wool of fibre proteins, it was investigated how to gain soluble wool proteins by reductive extraction in such a way that would allow cosmetic application. The reduction and conversion with iodine acetate produced carbo-methylated wool proteins with an average weigh of 50,000 with a produce of 45%. If one adds cysting to the protein extract, the produce raises to 65%. The cystine remnants of the wool proteins formed mixed disculphides with the cystine. This cystine enriched product could be used as a starting material for cosmetics.

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Astacin systin ACR is a novel reactive top coating ocess. It displays substantially better range of propies than other systems, especially with regard to wet o resistance, resistance to scratching, high temperare stability flex resistance and light fastness. Corial att Lacquer CM, Corial Lustre CE and Corial Diluent of an inert solvent are used together with the three process described below in this new system.

Astacin Finish RA is an acrylic polymer dispersion ntaining reactive groups, manufactured by solution lymerisation. Astacin FX RB is a solution of a polynction organic compound. Astacin soft RC is an tremely low volatile plasticizer consisting of a special ganic ester.

Eutresol Hardener FC enables finishes with very high ater repellency to be produced. Optimum water repellency can be achieved by operating continuous plating achines at temperatures of 170°C and above. There are danger of plated finishes becoming brittle.

Corlal Microbinder BM is a new type of highly water sistant binder. The finely divided dispersion forms a ugh, scarcely tacky finishing film. When used in compation with Corial Microbinder AM, the new product was finishes suitable for soft leathers with interesting andle properties.

### PORTABLE METER

The KM 1205 is a battery powered (or mains if equired) instrument which can measure and print pH, mperature and millivolts. Accurate printed records can taken to back up research and reports.

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Leather, 190, (4557), 1988.

### CHINA - NEW SOURCE OF WET SALTED HIDE

A 'new source' of wet salted hides is People's Republic of China which has started trading with Italy. Until last year, buying was canalised through Beijing but now each province is responsible for its own business.

World Leather, 1, (5), 1988.

#### NEW CHROME USE TANNING FROM ICI

ICI has introduced a new patented product to replace chrome, totally or partially, in tanning leather in what they describe as the biggest breakthrough in tanning for 100 years.

Synektan TAC, the new product, is based on the use of aluminium, titanium and magnesium researched and perfected by ICI Colours and Fine Chemicals at its Leather Centre at St. Clair Du Rhone, France. It is claimed to reduce the use of chemicals requested for wet processing by upto 50% and similarly reduces the use of water and produces water effluent which is toxic free and environmentally acceptable. Synektan TAC will be available world-wide from September 1988.

World Leather, (5), 1988.

### ACQUEOUS UPHOLSTERY FINISHING

A new acqueous polyurethene finish which meets the demand for upholstery leather has been developed by Earnshaw Ltd. It will withstand 300 wet rubs and 1,000 dry rubs on the Veslic, 1,00,000 flexes as the Bally flexing machine and also exhibits good adhesion properties. The new system utilises a cross linking agent which improves the physical properties after 24 to 48 hours.

World Leather, 1, (5), 1988.

## INDIAN LEATHER SCENE

## INDUSTRY PERTURBED OVER MOVE TO BAN EXPORTS OF SEMI-PROCESSED LEATHER

The Government policy to totally ban export of semiprocessed leather from April 1, 1990, is causing worry to the industry and trade.

As a first step, the Government has already cut the overall semifinished leather export quota by 50% from April 1, this year. A further cut of the remaining 50% is sought to be effected next year leading to a total ban on export beyond 1990.

Addressing the annual general meeting of the All India Skin and Hide Tanners and Merchants Association at Madras recently, Mr. C.K. Duraivelan, President, said since the current export import policy is valid from 1988 to 1991, the trade never anticipated any ban on export during this period. The move will badly hit small tanners in particular, who thrive on export of El leathers.

The trade is already reeling under financial constraints with the implementation of the new provision that licences will be issued only on the basis of the highest prices tendered by the exporters against bank guarantee. Despite several representations made by the trade, the Government has refused to change the policy and exports have since come to a complete standstill.

Even otherwise, semi-finished leather exports have been on the decline in the wake of the Government policy and last year, it amounted to only Rs. 72.5 crores. Mr. Duraivelan felt that it will not be in the country's interest to lose some of the traditional markets which have been built over the years.

He noted that even advanced countries are allowing export of all items, including semi-finished leather, as a happy product-mix is necessary to sustain the general export trade. In the circumstances, he appealed to the Government not to totally ban export of semi-processed leather and allow the trade to continue exporting at the current level.

Referring to tannery effluent treatment projects, he said that the common plant at Vaniyambadi is likely to be commissioned shortly. The Tamil Nadu Leather

Development Corporation (TALCO) has also undertak setting up of similar plants at Ranipet, Ambur and Penambut where cooperative societies have already beformed for the purpose.

TALCO will carry out the effluent treatment project at Dindigul, Erode, Trichy and Pallavaram also. Whe ever collective disposal is not possible, many tanne have put up individual plants. Mr. Duraivelan, however made a plea to the State Pollution Control Board not be vigorous with tanners but guide them in executir the projects economically. Also, the Centre and State Government should consider granting subsidies and so loans to set up the plants.

While thanking the Tamil Nadu Government for bring ing down the sales tax on dressed hides and skins from 2% to 1%, he also reiterated the trade's other long standing demands like total exemption of tax on sale of dressed hides and skins which have already attracted tax at raw stage; exemption of the tanning industry from the purview of tax on works contract and treating leather in any stage as one commodity.

## LEATHER INDUSTRY MAY FACE RAW GOODS SHORTAGE

There has been a decline in the stocks of all the major species of livestock in the country in recent years, which is feared to pose serious raw material shortage problem for the fledging domestic leather industry in the comin years, writes Mony K. Mathew in *Financial Express*.

The livestock front, in fact, had recorded a positive growth rate from 1977 to 1982 in almost all the states which is considered one of the major factors contributing to increased activities in the leather industry in the following years. But the trend has since been reversed according to a survey conducted by the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Madras.

The decline in stocks has been attributed to a variet of factors like drought conditions, growing shortage of fodder and grazing lands, neglect of young stocks, premature slaughter of young animals and large-scal inter-state migration of bovine stock for slaughter.

The fall in grazing lands has been severe in major

y of the States. Information collected from 120 sample lages showed that 68% of them reported shrinkage grazing lands, 31% a stagnant situation and hardly 6 an increase in the area. Gujarat and Maharashtra e the only two States where 8% of villages registered pansion of grazing facilities on account of additional ands brought under fodder crops.

The significant reasons for the decline of grazing lands e diversion for raising crops (31%), diversion for comercial and housing purposes (27%) and Government equisition (25%). Of these diversion for commercial and busing purposes is the highest in Kerala (50%), followed by Uttar Pradesh (46%) and Rajasthan 41%).

Acquisition by the Government led to reduction of azing land to the extent of 40% in Maharashtra, 33% Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and 6% in Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. Lack veterinary facilities and problems of livestock mangement are other important reasons for the decline in ocks.

The survey has found that in the absence of any conete programmes exclusively for meat animal develoment, the gap between demand and supply for meat nimals has been widening. In the process, substantial cosion in the productive and seed stock has taken place almost all the species of livestock.

It has also been noticed that the best breeds in the cuntry that move to urban centres end up there after ctation. The young calves perish in the urban centres ue to neglect and starvation. Under the circumstances, the CLRI study feels that it will be a stupendous sk to meet the growing demand of human population terms of animal products, particularly meat and meat roducts. The acute shortage of supply is reflected in e steep rise in meat prices all over the country.

The boom conditions that prevailed in the leather dustry during the last three or four years was due to creased slaughter and heavy mortality of animals folwing drought and fodder shortage. But the study warns at the industry's long-term perspectives depend on gulated slaughter of animals on the one hand and lock-building activities on the other.

## EXCISE EXEMPTION LIMIT MAY BE RAISED TO

The excise duty structure for leather foodwear indusy may soon undergo major changes. The need for pelerated modernisation of the sector to cater to the ever-growing domestic and international markets, as also the declining raw material resources necessitating conservation of leather are understood to be the major factors that have influenced the thinking of the concerned on these lines.

According to reliable sources, a five-member sub-committee set up by the Development Council for Leather and Lather Goods to study the excise structure has unanimously recommended certain changes keeping in view the basic shifts that have come about in the industry recently in its production pattern and marketing priorities. The panel, headed by Mr. A. Sahasranaman, Executive Director, Council for Leather Exports (CLE), has already submitted its report to the development council.

The committee has suggested, among other things, the raising of excise exemption limit from the present level of Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 1.5 crores of annual turnover. This is based on the projected massive capacity creation that is required to achieve the production and export targets set for the turn of the century.

It is pointed out that the industry will have to produce 450 million pairs of footwear by 2000 AD to meet the envisaged demand of 250 million pairs for domestic consumption and 200 million pairs for export. At 80% utilisation, this means having a production capacity of 563 million pairs.

As of now, the cottage sector accounts for as much as 266 million pairs out of a total of 350 million pairs manufactured in the country. Of the balance, 100 million pairs are made in the semi-mechanised small sector and another 24 million pairs in 15 DGTD-registered units. The excise exemption limit has been fixed with the avowed objective of supporting the cottage industry employing people from the backward communities.

However, in the context of the rapid rise in prices of raw material on export demand, without the corresponding increase in footwear prices, the hand-made footwear manufacturers in the cottage sector are now surviving by cutting their own wages. It is estimated that the wage level for a closed pair of shoes in the cottage sector is now only Rs. 20 where it is Rs. 5 in a mechanised unit.

Indication are that the wage level for the artisans in the cottage sector will continue to come down for reasons like the limited avialability of raw material and the extreme price sensitiveness of the footwear market. Already, there has been a massive exodus of artisans to other more remunerative areas like agriculture and road construction.

A spin-off of this situation is the perceptible decline in the quality of the footwear made. This is evidenced by the fact that the country could export only 15 million pairs of footwear which is less than 1% of the world export market. Even in this, good quality footwear amounts to only three million pairs.

Against this background, the committee feels that the excise policy followed by the Government has 'effectively shut the doors towards mechanisation and modernisation'. Since mechanisation is the only solution to the problem, it is observed that the time has come for a review of the objective behind the support given to the cottage sector in the form of excise duty.

The panel holds the view that for a mechanised unit to be viable, it should have a minimum capacity of 500 pairs and the annual turnover of such a unit will be around Rs. 1.5 crores. Besides, expenditure on marketing efforts will be a huge burden on the unit. In the circumstances, the committee sees a positive need to raise the excise exemption limit to Rs. 1.5 crores. Also, footwear up to a value of Rs. 125 per pair should be exempted from the duty as at today's cost it is impossible to make shoes below that level.

An alternative proposal in this regard is that units using less than 10 HP power or employing not more than 49 workers may be exempted from duty. Another recommendation of the panel is that components should not be subject to excise duty. The emerging trend in other countries, notably in Italy, is establishing assembly lines for making complete footwear from components manufactured at various ancillary units. The Union Government has also been encouraging this system which ensures better quality. In the event, the panel argues that the excise duty on components will act as a disincentive for going into assembly manufacture.

In the wake of the rapidly shrinking domestic raw material base, it is pointed out that the excise on rubber and PVC footwear should be completely dispensed with so as to conserve leather. Presently, the rate of duty on these is 20%.

The panel has also suggested doing away with the duty on branded goods if these units come under the purview of the exemption limit. The current policy is to levy duty on branded goods irrespective of the turnover limit. The CLE chairman, Mr. Mohammed Hashim, has also made a strong plea for review of the existing excise

structure at the recently held Development Coul meeting in Bangalore.

## NEW EXPANSION POLICY MAY HIT LEATHER INDUSTRY

The new Government policy in regard to capace expansion in finished leather manufacturing is feared adversely affect the industry. The policy, while relaxing the locational restrictions on setting up additional capacity, has also made it clear that the Government will ke in mind the need for regional dispersal of new tanniunits before granting approvals. Also, the question restructuring the capacity in areas already oversated attention.

Finished leather industry circles feel that the policy warmount to denying opportunities for the units to exparand grow as also result in the closure of a number units, especially in Tamil Nadu. It is pointed out that it share of licensed tanning capacities in Tamil Nadu finides and skins are 33.17 and 67.79%, respectively. It is same time, the total availability of these raw materials in the State is 5.32% hides and 8.66% skins, thereticely in the capacity far above the availability.

At present, to feed the huge capacities existing in the State, raw materials are being procured from other part of the country. But, in the wake of the recent liberal sation, new tanning and finishing units are bound to come up in those areas which will cut off the flow of ray materials to Tamil Nadu. Under the circumstances, the organised units in the State will have to be eventual closed down affecting sizeable employment opportunities.

Therefore, the Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers and Exporters Association has appealed to the Government to reconsider its decision and amend the present liberalisation.

## WORLD BANK KEEN TO FUND LEATHER PROJECTS

The World Bank has shown interest in funding tw projects in India for the setting up of sophisticated modern mechanised leather complexes, according to the Indian Leather Technologists' Association (ILTA)

An ILTA press release, issued in Calcutta said that the World Bank had asked the Central Leather Researc Institute (CLRI) for proposals for setting up one unit eac in the southern and eastern regions of the country. The release said that Mr. Sanjoy Sen, president of the ILTA

ho is also the chairman of the research council of the LRI along with the director of CLRI, Dr. R.B. Mitra cently met Mr. Jyoti Basu to seek his assistance in entifying a suitable plot in and around Calcutta for seting up the proposed integrated leather complex. The nief minister has agreed to identify such a piece of land llowing which a feasibility report would be made ready or presentation to the World Bank, the release said coording to Mr. Sanjoy Sen, the minimum requirement of land for the proposed complex was estimated to be round 200-250 acres which should be located along perennial canal or a small river.

Mr. Sen pointed out to the chief minister that although alcutta in recent years had emerged as the largest exporter of leather goods in India and contributed around 3% to the total Indian export effort, the lack of a modern ophisticated infrastructure had resulted in Calcutta not eing able to attract and retain the attention of serious verseas buyers.

## EATHER GOODS EXPORTERS FORM CONSORTIUM

The idea of consortium marketing is catching on among leather exporters. Some garment manufacturers of Madras have already come together in a consortium to maker leather garments, particularly in the US. The consortium can project a capacity of at least 20,000 garments per month. The strategy involves sending marketing teams to US and Europe and hiring the services of professional sales agencies abroad. The consortium, a get-together of young professonals, has been inspired by Vam Exports, an existing organisation with about 10 small garment manufacturers under its umbrella.

Mr. M.M. Hashim, chairman of the Council for Leather Exports, commending consortium approach which has been successfully tried out by countries like Japan and South Korea, pointed out that the consortium would be able to present the buyer with substantial capacity, provide a wider range of products, ensure quality consistency and above all avoid unhealthy intra-constituent competition.

## MEET ON LEATHER WORKERS' PROBLEM IN AUGUST

A conference to discuss the problems of leather workers is being convened during the last week of August by the Karnataka Pradesh Leather Workers' Federation which was set up about a month back.

The president of the federation, Mr. M.R. Ramaiah, told journalists in Bangalore that the conference would be attended by representatives of the International Leather Workers' Association and the All India Leather Workers' Federation. Mr. Haribhai Nayak, Vice-President, ILO (Asia) for leather, textiles and garments, and president of the Rashtriya Mills Mazdoor Sangh, Bombay will deliver the keynote address.

Mr. Ramaiah noted that there were 35 lakh people in the state dependent on this occupation and one lakh directly involved, out of which about 8,000 were working in Bangalore. These workers, he claimed, found it difficult to make profits since they had to pay an exhorbitant price for leather. Again, many of them, he said, preferred to do piece-work whereas organisations like the Karnataka Leather Industries' Development Corporation insisted on them taking bulk supplies which they could not afford.

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## LEATHER NEWS FROM ABROAD

#### U.S. IMPORTS DOWN

United States trade statistics released by the Department of Commerce in America show imports of non-rubber footwear down 11.9%. In April 1988, 70.1 million tonnes of non-rubber footwear were imported compared to 79.6 million for the same period in the previous year. April's import figures bring the year-to-date non-rubber footwear total to 316.6 million tonnes, a decline of 7%. This is the fourth consecutive month that imports of non-rubber footwear have declined, reflecting the continued strength of the dollar in the international market. Nevertheless, imports still control 82% of the domestic footwear market.

Shoe & Leather News, 3760, 1988.

### UNIDO PLANS FOR AFRICA

Faced with a world shortage of raw materials, the wastage of raw hides and skins in Africa is a tragedy both in leather industry terms and more importantly in lost potential for countries which can ill afford to throw money away. To remedy this situation, UNIDO's US \$20 million scheme for the improvement of hides, skins, leather and leather products in Africa is now ready for implementation. The following is the animal population with target area.

	Target Countries		Whole o	of Africa
	Head 106	Kill 106	Head 106	Kill 106
Bovine	105	9	140	13
Goat	85	24	133	43
Sheep	81	18	131	40

Leather, 190, (4557), 98.

### **IULTCS XXTH CONGRESS**

In October 1989, the American Leather Chemists Association will host the XXth Congress of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Society in Philadelphia. The general theme of the lectures and poster presentations will be application of science and technology to create fine leather while reducing the quantity of unprofitable by-products.

Leather, 190, (4557), 1988.

### **NEW LOW CHROME COMPOUND**

A recent patent has made it possible to product leather with physical characteristics comparable to the obtained with chrome at temperatures of over 100° while using only 0.5% of Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and 1% of A 1203 with 3% of bicarboxylic acid.

Leather, 190, (4557), 198

### HIDE CHILLING TO REPLACE SALTING

France's research institute CTC is working with Cuire Eurotan in developing hide chilling as an alternative t salting. The project is no longer at the pilot stage. The firm is collecting hides in a refrigerated truck in whice they are hung for chilling during transportation for discharge to cold store. The next step in the development is to take the stock to the wet blue. A parallel CTC development is the production of dry white small skins. Chemicals added to the wet-white allow a drying that can late be reversed in less than half an hour.

World Leather, 1, (5), 1988

### PIG SKIN USE SOARING

The growing importance of pig meat and the potentially greater availability of pig skin as a raw material folleather is reflected in a new pig breeding centre opened by the Meat and Livestock Commission. It incorporates some of Europe's most advanced design and technology and has been planned to cope with an anticipated boon in U.K.'s commercial use of pig. The demand has grown at the rate of 20% for the last three years and further expansion is expected over the next few years.

Shoe & Leather News, (3751), 1988.

### ITALIAN INNOVATIONS

Italy has as many tanning machiney manufacturers as the rest of the EEC put together. There are about 40, ranging from companies employing less than 10 people upto about 150. Turnovers range from under pounds 500,000 to around pounds 12 million per year. Polyester industry sells over pounds 200 million worth of machinery to the world.

World Leather, 1, (4), 1988.

## **STATISTICS**

### WORLD NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS: JAN.-JUNE 1987

untry	Quantity (1000 pairs)	Per- cent of Total	Value* \$ mil.	Per- cent of Total	Unit Value \$	Percen Quan- tity	t change Value	1986-87** Unit Value
azil	53,781	10.6	418.3	12.9	7.78	7.8	9.0	18.2
nina	26,277	5.2	40.4	1.2	1.53	80.1	94.5	7.7
ance	2,481	0.5	42.9	1.3	17.29	16.8	4.4	14.9
eece	185	0.0	2.8	. 0.1	15.14	27.1	6.5	46.0
ong Kong	16,427	3.3	56.7	1.7	3.45	11.9	14.9	30.2
dia	2,540	0.5	17.3	0.5	6.81	95.3	100.3	2.6
aly	30,530	6.0	430.4	13.2	. 14.10	30.1	5.4	35.2
pan	627	0.1	3.4	0.1	5.42	36.2	11.7	38.6
orea	95,994	47.4	713.6	21.9	7.43	7.7	7.8	0.1
exico	3,600	0.7	24.9	0.8	6.80	84.4	58.8	13.9
nilippines	3,540	0.7	9.9	0.3	2.80	7.5	11.0	3.3
oland	417	0.1	2.8	0.1	6.72	14.8	18.6	4.4
omania	1,254	0.3	7.7	0.2	6.14	78.9	85.6	3.7
pain	14,682	2.9	181.3	5.6	12.35	23.4	15.1	10.9
aiwan	239,999	47.4	1175.1	36.1	4.90	8.5	26.1	16.4
nailand	3,577	0.7	15.5	0.5	4.33	15.1	19.8	5.7
ugoslavia	1,181	0.2	12.5	0.4	10.58	39.8	36.6	3.7
thers	8,848	1.7	97.1	3.0	10.97	3.3	2.1	0.1
orld Total	505,992	100.0	3251.9	100.0	6.43	2.4	9.4	6.3
astern Economic Countries	50,156	10.0	697.5	21.4	13.91	27.5	8.8	25.8
astern Block Countries	841	0.2	6.4	0.2	7.61	16.5	11.1	6.5

\*\* First half 1986 to First half 1987. Customs values imports for consumption. burce: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and International Trade Administration (American Shoe Making, 362, (4), 1988).

### GERMAN LEATHER INDUSTRY

(in mil. DM)

		Shipments	Exports	Imports
EATHER EXPORTS INDIA	Leather Industry Shoe Industry	1425 6194	800 1247	1523 5348
100C 07 % inc	Leather goods Industry	1900.	570	1200

### FOOTWEAR & LEATHER MACHINERY -- 1987 (in mil. DM)

Taring Machinery	65.0
Tanning Machinery	253.5
Shoe Machinery	150.0
Sewing Machinery	163
Shoe replacing Machinery	15.6
Leather goods Machinery	500.4
Total	make many and case and it has not placed as the same of the same o

xports	1985-86	1986-87	% inc.
emifinished Leather inished Leather eather Footwear cootwear Components eather Garments eather Goods addlery &Harness	490.72 2881.95 330.31 1903.52 167.22 774.64 76.78 6625.14	525.00 .4008.94 .803.83 .2406.92 .622.67 .825.35 .115.05 .93(.7.76	6.99 39.71 143.36 26.45 272.37 6.55 49.84 40.49
intal	0025		-

#### NOTICE

### GUJARAT HEAVY CHEMICALS LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE: MISTRY CHAMBERS (6TH FLOOR), KHANPUR, AHMEDABAD 380 001.

FORM IIA (See Rule 4A (1))

It is hereby notified for the information of the public that M/s. Gujarat Heavy Chemicals Limited proposes to make an application to the Central Government in the Department of Company Affairs, New Delhi, under Section (2) of Section 22 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for approval to the establishment of a new undertaking. Brief particulars of the proposal are as under:

(1) Name and address of the applicant

GUJARAT HEAVY CHEMICALS LIMITED

Mistry Chambers (6th Floor). Khanpur, Ahmedabad 380 001.

(2) Capital Structure of the applicant organisation

Authorised Capital: 100.00 crores Subscribed Capital: 72.00 crores Paid-up capital: 71.00 crores (Equity shares of Rs. 10/ each).

(3) Management structure of the applicant organisation indicating the names of the Directors, including Managing/Whole-time Directors and Manager, If any

The Company is managed by the Board of Directors Names of Directors:

1) Shri H.R. Patankar -- Chairman

2) Shri S.K. Shelat -- Director 3) Shri Sanjay Dalmia -- Director

4) Shri Anurag Dalmia -- Director

5) Dr. P.K. Das - Director 6) Dr. B.C. Jain -- Director

7) Shri P.M. Thomas -- Director (Nominee--IDBI) 8) Shri B.Y. Srinivasan -- Director (Nominee--LIC)

9) Shri V. Dixit -- Director (Nominee -- IFCI)

10) Shri K.C. Sharma -- Director

11) Shri Shobhan M. Thakore -- Director

12) Shri P.P. Vora -- Director 13) Shri Y.K. Jain -- Managing Director

(4) Indicate whether the proposal relates to the establishment of a new unit/division

New Undertaking

(5) Location of the new Undertaking

Salempur, Dist. Aligarh, U.P.

(6) Capital structure of the proposed Undertaking

The proposed equity capital of the new undertaking will be Rs. 120 crores.

(7) In case the proposal relates to the production, storage, supply, distribution, marketing or control of any goods/articles, indicate

(i) Names of goods/articles: (ii) Proposed licensed capacity:

Benzene 1,00,000 tons O-xylene 35,000 tons P-xylene 1,07,000 tons Heavy Aromatics 7,580 tons

(ili) Estimated Annual turn-over (Rs. in lakhs)

7.700

3,500

1,600

2,700

(8) In case the proposal relates to the provision: of any service, state the volume of activity in terms of usual measure such as value, income turnover etc.

Not applicable

(9) Cost of the Project

Rs. 600 crores

(10) Scheme of finance, indicating the amounts to be raised from each source

Equity Capital:

Loan from Financial Institutions etc.:

Rs. 120.00 crores Rs. 480.00 crores

Rs. 600.00 crores

Any person interested in the matter may make a representation in quadruplicate to the Secretary, Department of Company Affairs, Government of India, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice, intimating his view on the proposal and indicating the nature of his interest therein.

for GUJARAT HEAVY CHEMICALS LIMITED

Dated: 30th July 1988

(M.N.K. NAIR) COMPANY SECRETARY

### MARKET INFORMATION

### Benzene Shortage Acute

Benzene, an essential output for the tyes, chemical, paint and host of ther industries, is in acute shortage, the refineries have not been supplying his item in required quantity. In the heantime HOC plant is also reported to be shut down. The quality of enzene from steel plant was not upto the mark. Toluene and xylene continued to be short. Phenol also moved

up. However, MEK, GH-17 and PVA moved down slightly. Bromine shot up to Rs. 60 and ready goods were not available. Butyl acrylate monomer styrene monomer exhibited lower tendency.

Bon Acid was quoted at Rs. 125, up by Rs. 7 and 8. Meta ureido aniline moved upto Rs. 170. MPD shortage continued. Tobias acid and sul-

We cannot guarantee the accuracy of the prices published in CHEMI-CAL WEEKLY as they are based only on the enquiries made by our correspondent — and, as such they are not FIRM PRICES as between a buyer and seller. The prices are published only with a view to giving some ideas of market conditions.

The prices are inclusive of Excise and Maharashtra Sales Tax.

pho tobias were also in short supply. Dyes manufacturers are facing acute raw material shortage that is affecting their exports.

#### (Prices as on 18th August 1988)

		Borax (Granular)	13.50	Laiclum Carbonate PPT	3.00
NDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS	Per kg	Borax (Powder)	21.00	Caloium carbonate (Activated)	3.55
Ammonium sulpitate	2.00	Boric acid (Tecn.)	22.00	Camphor (Indian)	82.00
Ammonlum phosphate (Mono)	14.50	Bisphenol-A	71+ST	Cresylic acid	50.00
ammonlum phosphete (D1)	12.00	Butyl carbitol	48.00	Cream of Tartar (Tech.)	70.00
Ammonium carbonate (D1)	17.00	Caustic soda (Flakes)	9.20	Citric scid (Belgium) (Resale)	43.00
Ammonium bicarbonate	4.75	Caustic soda (Solid)	8.00	Citric acid (Indian) (Resale)	
mmonium chloride	3.00	Caustic sods (Lye)	7.00	Copper sulphate	21.00
mmonium nitrate	3.50	Calcium chloride 70% (solid)	3.25	Chromic acid	48.00
Arsenic white powder	21.00	Calcium chloride 75-80%		Cyanuric chloride	120.00
Acrylamide (Resale)	88.00	(fused)	3.60		280.00
erium carbonate	€.00	Calcium chiorida 35%		Copair oxide	
leaching powder (33% CI)	4.00	(Anhydrous)	5 00	Carbitol	60+ST

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(Anhydrous) 16.00	Sodium sulphide 50-52% (Flakes) 11+ST	Benzyl chloride 34.0
Glue flakes 8.45	(1.12.1.2.)	Benzo trichloride 16.0
Glue sheets 6.75	Sodium sulphide 58-60%	Benzoyl chloride 22.0
Gohsenol GH-17 130+ST	(Flakes) (TCL) 19.00	Bromine Liquid 60.0
Hydro (Resale) 41,50+ST	Sodium sulphide pure (Flakes) 12.25	Chloroform25.0
Hyflosupercell 24+ST	Sodium nitrite (Resale) 700.00	Carbon Tetrachloride 17.0
Hexamine (Resale) 35.00	Sodium chlorite 80% (Spain) 90.00	Cellosoive 47+5
Industrial Wax 25.00	Santobrite (Indian) 36.00	Cyclohexanone 53+S
Litharge 15.00	Soda Ash (Tata) 4.00	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Lead Acetate (Tech) 28.00	Soda Ash (Birla) 3.80	
Lithopone 18+ST	Soda Ash (Imp.) 3.50	
Magnesium chloride (Crystal) 1.00	Sodium bicarbonate 5.25	
Menthol crystal (Flakes) 185+EX.+ST	Sodium bisulphite 4.50	Diethylene glycol (DEG) 46+S
Menthol bold 205+Ex.+ST	Sodium silicate 3.00	Dioctyl Phthalate 52.0
Menthol crystal bold 245+Ex.+ST	Sodium acetate 6.00	Diallyl Phthalate 56.0
Magnesium carbonate (Japan) 16.00	Sodium alginate 160+ST	Dimethyl Phthalate 28.0
Magnesium carbonate (Indian) 15.00	Titanium Dioxide (Anatase) , 56+ST	Dioctyl Adipate 52.0
Maleic Anhydride (per kg)	Titantum Dioxide	Dibutyl Adipate 42.0
(Resale) 55.00	(Rutile — RCR <sub>2</sub> ) 78+ST	Dipentene 15.0
Mercury (75 lbs.) 10500.00	Tartaric acid (Crystal) 94.00	Dimethylamine 40% 12.0
Nickel chloride 90.00	Trisodium phospnate 4.80	Dimethylamine 60% 14.0
Oxalic acid (Resale) 22.00	Thiourea 78+ST	Ethyl Acetate 19.0
Peppermint oil (Rectified) 90+Ex.+ST	Urea (Tech) 2.75	Ethyl Acrylete 54.0
Potassium carbonate (Indian) 19.00	Zinc Dust 30.00	Ethylene Dichloride 11.0
Potassium carbonate (Imported) 23.00	Vacuum salt 1.00	Ethylene Glycol 45+S
Potassium bichromate 22.00	Zinc Oxide 30.00	Formic Acid (Imp) (Resale)29.0
Potassium phosphate (Mono) 14.00	Zinc chloride powder	Formaldehyde (Resale) 6.5
Potassium phosphate (Di) 14.00	(technical) 14.00	Glycerine (CP) 53.0
Polyvinyl alcohol (No. 117) 120+ST	Zinc sulphate 4.00	Glycerine (IW) 48.0
Polyvinyl alcohol (No. 173)	7.00	Hydrogen peroxide 50%
(Resale) 135⊣-ST	SOLVENTS Per kg.	(Resale) 26.5
Polyvinyl alcohol (No. 208) 150.00		Isopropyl Alcohol 21.0
Po c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c	Acetic Acid (Glacial) (Resale) 17.00	Iso Butyl Alcohol 28.0
Paraforfaldehyde (Resale) 22+ST	Acetic Anhydride (Resale) 25.00	(Resale) 30.0
Phthalic anhydride 36%	Acetone (Resale) 17.00	Monoehanolamine (Resale) 52.00
Pentaerythritol (Resale) 24.00 (Resale) 51.00	Adipic Acid 55+ST	Melamine 50+-S
	Aceto Acetanilide 50.00	Methyl Ethyl Ketone 55.0
D	Anrine Oil (Resale) 50.00	Methyl Isobutyl Ketone 36.00
Rangolite (German) 96+ST	Benzoate Plasticiser 45.00	Methyl Acrylate 42.00
Rangolite (Czech.) 54+ST	Butyl acrylate 84+ST	Methyl Dichloride (Resale) 23.00
£~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	200000000000000000000000000000000000000	25.00

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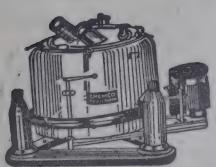
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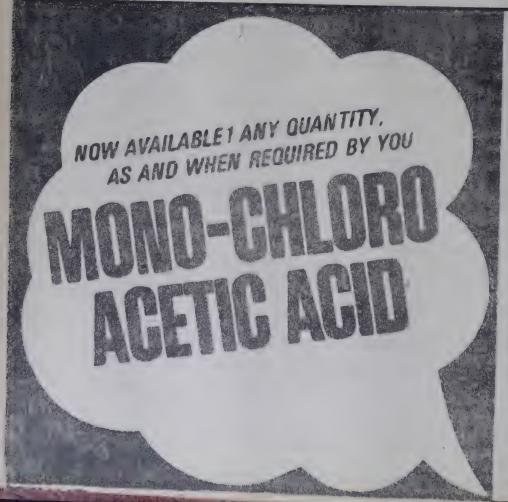
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	esale) 49.00	Cyanuric Chloride (Japan)	120.00	(India)	130.00
Turpentine Oil (Germany)		2, 4, DNCB	29.00	PNCB	32.00
Turkey Red Oil (50%)	11.75	Dihydrothlo PTOS (Imp.)	600.00	Para Amino Acetanilide	:45.00
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Vinyl Acetate Monomer	43.50	Diethyl Aniline	155.00	Pyrazolone	120.00
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SOLVENTS	Per Litre	acid	125.00	Para Amino Benzoio Acid	170.00
Benzene	16.00	3, 3-DCB (Imp.)	180.00	PT Base	98.00
N-Heptane		Gamma Acid (Atul)	170.00	Rhoduline Acid	500.00
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N-Hexane	8.75	G. Salt	61.00	Resorcinol	150.00
Methanol	8.00	Isophthalic Acid		Sodium Naphthionate	65.00
Solvent Naphtha Heavy	40 00			5-Sulpho-Anthranilic Acid	64.00
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(Inquiries for Acetone Cyanohydrine (GUJACH) and Methyl Methacrylate Monomer (GUJMER) for chemical application also

solicited.)

#### Bombay dyes market

(Prices as on 18th August 1988)

ACID COLOUR	Per Kg.	Brill, Violet Extra	126.40 86.60		214 223
Acid Violet 4BS	143.00		170.50		364
Acid Maroon V	110.00		188.25		318
Acid Orange II	77.80		147.00		636
Acid Orange IIY	63.05		114.60		270
Acid Red A	107.25		116.10		200
Crosein Scarlet MOO	155.00	b	300.20		324
Acid Scarlet 3R	99.90		185.30		324
Acid Red 38N	135.00		185.30		31.
Acid Red R2R	132.00		111.65		
Acid Red RS	88 00		188.25	DACE COLONDA	Per I
Acid Green V	230.00		188.25		
Acid Patent Blue As	<b>25</b> 0.00	- :	154.40	TOTAL TOTAL CO.	80
Acid Coomasi Blue	200.00	Brown CN	107.25		135
Acid Yellow 5GN	65.00	Golden Brown G	107.25	Lan Dealles 16	166
Acid Red PG	85.00	Catechin G		I do t bearies ise	126
Acid Red GRS	<b>78.</b> 00	Omega Tan	120.50	rast Scarice Rech	99.
Acid Black 10 BX	121.95		126.40	Tast Dearles G	121.
Acid Black BX		Black E Hly Conc.	102.80	Table Dearles GIA	91.
Acid Black Wax	98.40		142.60	Table Bearief and	72.
	135.50	Black E Extra Hly. Conc.	142.60	rast ocaries das	72.
Procinil Yellow G.		Black NB-ER Hly. Cone	310.50	rast reca b	203
(ICI, UK)	265.00			Fast Red RC	119.
Procinil Red GS (ICI, UK)	<b>53</b> 0.00	DISPERSOL COLOURS	Per Kg.	Fast Red R Flake	149.
Procinil Blue RS (ICI, UK)	315.00		101 118	Fast Red TR	166.
Procinil Scarlet G		Yellow 6G Powder	143.80	Fast Red TR Oll	183.
(ICI, UK)	600.00	Red B 3B Powder	247.80	Fast Red RL	237.
Procinil Orange G	900,00	Red B 2B Powder	323.20	Fast Red KB OII	201.
(ICI, UK)	220.00	Red CB Powder	439.15	Fast Bordeaux GP	201.
Procinil Rubine (ICI, UK)	250.00	Red D2B Powder	477.40	Fast Garnet GBC	94.
recent readile (ICI, UK)	550.00	Violet C 4R	521.90	Fast Violet B	505.
		Blue BG Powder	235.45	Fast Blue BD	521.
DIRECT COLOURS	Per Kg.	Blue BN Powder	103.75		
Yellow 3GX	-	Blue D 2R Powder	476.25		
Gun Yellow RCH	88.10	Navy BT Powder	243.90	NAPHTHOL COLOURS	Per K
Fast Yellow GCH	124.00	Blue B 2G Powder	210.20	ASG	910
Vallow CEC HI- Co-	141.15	Black BT Powder	182.60		217.0
Yellow CFG Hly. Cons. Fast Yellow GS	812.00	Blue BR Powder	390.20	AS	143.0
Fact Volley CVID	111.65	Yellow 7GL	338.60	ASSW	.279.7
Fast Yellow CHRS	95.45	Yellow 5RX	218.80	ABBS	
Viscose Orange A	166.15	Yellow 3G	367.25		189.1
Fast Orange GR Red	133.75	Yellow		ASBO	195.6
	96.90	Yellow AL	140.00	ASD	175.5
Dark Tan	78.25	Yellow Brown REL	135.30		
Red IIR Red 4B	72.55	Yellow FFL	247.50	ASOL	179.3
	169.10	Gold Yellow GG	463.60	ASTR	279.7
Bordeaux BW	132.30	Pink REL	259.70	ASPH	
Fast Scarlet 4BS	166.55	Red REL	247.00		279.7
Red 12B	170.55	Red 2B	468.65	ASF	196.0
Bordeaux Hly. Conc.		Red FB		ASE	184.4
Cotton Red N		Red Violet FBL	324.20	ASLB	
Brill Fast Helio B	000.00	Orange 3R	68.60%		1632.6
Brill Fast Helio 2B		Violet 3R	200.00	ASBT	1817.0
Brill Fast Helio 2RS		Violet RL		ASWG	143.0
Brill. Fast Helio BS		Violet 6R		ASSG	397.7
A Party of Company		violet ogs	485.75	ASSR	480.5
THE RESERVE THE PARTY OF THE PA	-				701

	- Me	Navy Blue M 3R 310.95 Blue R Conc. Pdr. Fine	577.65
CION COLOURS	FCI ING.		629.35
den Yellow HR			645.80
,	20210		378.55
1 Yellow H4G	117.85	Blue M 4GD 344.60 Brill. Blue 2R Supra Disp.	115.65
ra Yellow H-8GP	168.55	Navy Blue M RB 318.75 Dark Blue 2R Powder Fine	389.25
l. Yellow HE6G	166.95	Turquoise M-G 197.85 Blue BC Supra Disp.	359.40
low H-E4R	276.05	Brill, Blue M GX 302.50 Jade Green XBN Powder Fine	438.20
ll. Yellow H7O	<b>832</b> .30	Blue 3R Acra Powder 718.20 Jade Green XBN Acra Dark Brown H 6R 248.45 Conc. Powder	823.90
low M4R	243.95	Dark Brown H 6R 248.45 Conc. Powder  Cobalt Oxide (per kg.) 285.00 Jade Green 2G Pdr. Fine	419.65
_	326.05	Green H 4BD 269.80 Jade Green 2G Ptg. Faste	125.40
low M GR		Green H-E4BI 169.80 Jade Green XBN Ptg. Paste	126.00
II. Yellow M4G	177.10	Red Brown H IF 143.25 Jade Green 2G Supra Disp.	496.00
ll. Yellow M8G	332.30	Orange Brown H 28 209.05 Olive Green B Pdr. Fine	399.90
llow M 3R	217.60	Brown M GRN 188.80 Olive D Pdr. Fine	444.30 308.20
II. Orange H 2R	241.85	Black H-N 283.38 Olive Green B Supra Disp.	300-20
_	157.95	SULFUR COLOURS  Per Kg Disp. (N)	327.30
III. Red H 7B		Olive OMW Pdr. Fine	698.55
ill. Orange M 2R	313.15	Navy Blue 99.85 Olive OMW Supra Disp.	538.05
ill. Red H 8B	169.45	Plack Crains France 63.05 Olive R. Pdr. Fine	422.96
ill. Scarlet H RN	245.05	Plack Craims OG / 64 55 Olive D Supra Disp.	361.70
pra Red H-3BP	179.30	Plack GYF Conc. 61 60 Olive R Supra Disp.	363.90 193.00
ill Red H-F3B	243.45	59.75 Olive D. Ptg. Paste	199.10
	167.00	Black GXR  61.60  Olive Green B. Ptg. Paste Olive Green B Acra Comc.	542.75
ill Magenta HB	98.90	Black Grains 800 54.20 Olive R Acra Conc.	640.00
III. Red M 5B	90.50	Black EXR Grains 64.55 Olive Green B Acra Conc.	542.75
rill. Red M 8B	173.70	Black EXR Grains 800 51.25 Brown R Pdr. Fine	835.00
rill. Pink MB	137.10	VAT COLOURS (ICI) Per Kg. Brown G. Pdr. Fine	795.00
rill. Magenta MB	121.55	Brown R Pdr. Fine	659.75
	180.20	Dark Brown 3R Pdr Fine	685.00 449. <b>9</b> 0
rill. Purple H-3R	175.40	Yellow 5G Supra Disperse 439.30 Brown G. Supra Disp. Yellow 5G Acra Com. 628.75	310.00
rill. Purple H-7R		Vellow 3R Powder 588.85 Brown 2G Supra Disp.	554.00
avy Blue H 3R	298.50	Gold Orange 3G Pdr. Fine 952.15 Brown R Supra Disp.	422.95
rill. Blue H-GR	866.55	Brill. Orange 6R Pdr. Fine 624.35 Brown BR Powder	719.00
rill. Blue H 5G	173.10	Gold Orange 3G Supra Disp. 601.30 Dark Brown 3R Ptg. Paste	217.15
	283.85	Brill. Orange 6RX Powder 394.30 Dark Brown 3R Supra Disp.	414.55
lue H 5R	178.70	Brill. Red 3B Pdr. Fine 997.80	733.95
irill. Blue H 7G		Brill, Red 3B Supra Disp.	766.00
irill, Blue H 7RX	858.15	Brill Purple 4R Conc. Pur.	768.80
"urquoise HA	234.45	Brill, Purple 3R Acra Powder 5507 90 Grey M. Supra Disp.	585.45
Supra Blue H-3RP	\$35.70	Brill. Purple 2R 1117 Conc. Pdr. Fin	e 782.70
Supra Turquoise H 167	181.50	Acre Cong 625.95 Direct Black 110	330. <b>35</b>
	805.80	542.10 Direct Black	
Blue H-ERD	258.60	Blue BC Conc. Pdr. Fine 522.50 Direct Black Car Page	217.15
Wavy Blue H ER	269.30	Conc Pdr. File 762.78 Direct ACD	
Blue H 5RX	305.0		

#### Madras Market

Moderate conditions prevailed in the market. There was brisk activity in items like Bleaching Powder, Caustic Soda, Soda Ash etc. There was good purchasing of Bleaching Powder and other Sanitation Chemicals by Public Health authorities to check the out

break of infectious diseases. The Benzene/Toluene shortage is assuming serious proportions resulting in closure of factories including HOC Cochin Phenol plant, affecting exports of Phenol.

#### (MADRAS MARKET RATE AS ON AUGUST 20, 1988)

				*	
Acetic Acid Glacial (per kg	g) 18.75	Hydrosulphite of Sode —	,	Zinc Oxide (per kg)	34.
		TCPL (per kg)	40.00	Zinc Chloride Powder	
Aluminium Sulphate Iron Fr		Hydrosulphite of Soda —		(per kg)	13.
(bei int)	1800.00	IDI (per kg)	42.00	Zinc Sulphate (per MT)	4,500.
Ammonium Bicarbonate		Hydrosulphite of Soda —		Di-octyl Phthalate (per kg)	42.
(per 25 kg)	125.00	BASF (per kg)	44.00		42.
Acid Slurry Soft (per kg)	<b>27</b> .00	Hydrogen Peroxide (per kg)	30.00	Hexamine (per kg)	34.0
Ammonium Chloride SPIC		Hyflo Supercell (per kg)	19.50	SOLVENTS	1
(per MT)	2,800.00				
Bleaching Powder				Acetone — HOCL — (per k	g) 18.7 n: 22 0
(per 25 kg bags)	110.00	Potassium Bichromate (per kg	9) 26.00	Diacetone (per kg)	29.5
Borax Granular (per 50 kg)		Phosphoric Acid (per kg)	19.00	Diethylene Glycol (par kg)	48.0
	650.00	Phthalic Anhydride (per kg)	24.00	Isopropyl Alcohol (per kg)	22.0
Caustic Soda Flakes — Mettu Chemicals (par MT)	ır	Pentaerythritol (per kg)	52.00	Butanol (per kg)	34.0
		Paraffin Wax (per kg)	13.50	Benzene — SAIL — (per lit.	) 18.00
Caustic Soda Flakes — Andhi Sugars (per MT)		Oxalic Acid (per kg)		Toluene — SAIL (per lit.)	17.00
	8,600.00		24.00	Xylene — SAIL (per lit.)	18.00
Citric Acid (per kg)	48.00	Soda Ash — TAC (per 75 kg bags)	220.00	Phenol — HOCL — (per kg)	28.00
Copper Sulphate (per 50 kg)	1000.00		320.00	Turpentine (per lit.)	16.50
	1000.00	Soda Ash — TATA (per 75 kg bags)	225 00	Trichloroethylene — MCIC —	
Cresylic Acid 98/99% (per kg)			325.00	(per kg)	23.50
	87 + ED	Sodium Cyanide Indian (per kg)		Carbon Tetra Chlorida (per kg)	16.00
Meta Cresol 40/42%			55.00	Chloroform (per kg)	26.00
(per kg)	39+ED	Sodium Cyanide (Degussa)		Methylene Chloride (per kg)	25.00
Para Cresol 80/85% (per kg)	67-LED	(per kg)	80.00	Methanol (per kg)	11.00
	07   []	Sodium Bichromate		Methyl Ethyl Ketone (per kg)	52.00
Formic Acid (per kg)	27.00	(per kg)	20.00	Cellosolve (per kg)	50.00
Formaldehyde (per kg)		Sodium Bicarbonate		Butyl Acetate (per kg)	40.00
	9.00	(per 50 kg pags) Sodium Nitrate		Ethyl Acetate (per kg)	23.00
Glynarine (per kg)	52.00	(Der 50 kg hand		Triethanolamine (per kg)	24.00

Sodium Nitrite	75
(per 50 kg bags)	4500
Sodium Silicate (per MT)	
Sodium Sulphate (per MT)	3200
Sodium Sulphide Flakes (per MT)	12000
Socium Bisulphite (per 50 kg)	4,000
Stearic Acid (per kg)	30
Trisodium Phosphate (per 50 kg)	350
Titanium Dioxide — Indian TTP — (per kg)	49
Titanium Dioxide — Indian (Rutile) (per kg)	58.
Úrea Tech (per MT)	2800.
Zinc Oxide (per kg)	34.
Zinc Chloride Powder (per kg)	.13.
Zinc Sulphate (per MT) 4	,500.0
Di-octyl Phthalate (per kg)	42.6
Di-butyl Phthalate (per kg)	42.0
lexamine (per kg)	34.0
COLVENTS	
cetone — HOC! — (per kg)	18.7
cetone — NOCIL — (per kg)	22.0
lacetone (per kg)	29.5
iethylene Glycol (par kg)	48.0

Sorbitol (per kg)

450.00

35.00

#### Delhi Market

DELHI: AUGUST 19, (NNS) — Menthol prices went up sharply by Rs. 0/20 (per kg.) in the Delhi chemials market during past week, on brisk and bulk purchasing by exporters and tockists, reports NNS. Ammonia bisarb, titanium, paraffin wax also showed an upward trend whereas Helamine suffered a steep fall of Rs. Some easy supply. Turnover was moderate over the week caused by heavy ains during the week.

On account of limited inflow from J.P. along with heavy demand shown by the stockists of Delhi and exporters of Bombay, Menthol bold went up sharply by Rs. 20 at Rs. 285 (per kg.). A rise of Rs. 50 (per kg.) was reported in Menthol bold within two or three weeks. Menthol medium advanted from Rs. 255 to Rs. 265 and flakes flared up at Rs. 236 against Rs. 222 on acute shortage of stocks. Menthol bil moved up from Rs. 175 to Rs. 192 and DMO remained static at Rs. 102 per kg.

In the absence of fresh inflow from Kerala and Increased demand by stockists, titanium dioxide Anatase and RC-822 appreciated by Rs. 1/2 at Rs. 57 and Rs. 76 (per kg.) respectively and good demand by paint units.

Ammonia bicarb marked up further by Rs. 5 at Rs. 140 (per 25 kg.) on account of good demand from Haryana, Punjab and West Bengal induced by tight supply position. Paraffin wax recorded a gain of Rs. 10 at Rs. 650 in the absence of arrivals from Assam due to flood, Formaldehyde moved up by Rs. 1 at Rs. 9 (per kg.) on tight supply.

Hexamine, however suffered a sharp decline of Rs. 8 at Rs. 34 (per kg.) In the absence of demand by industrial units as well as comfortable supply.

Sodium hydro sulphite Gulshan softened from Rs. 38 to Rs. 37 on thin trading. Mercury citric acid, tartaric acid, soda ash and soda bicarb prices hovered around at their last week levels.

Dyes and colours also ruled quiet in the absence of demand due to rainy weather.

Acetic Acid Glacial 14.50-17.00 (per kg) Copper Sulphate 2100-2300.00 (per quintal) 26.00 Formic acid (per kg) 9.00 Formaldehyde (per kg) Hydrogen Peroxide 27-29.00 (per kg) Calcium Carbonate 2500-4000.00 (per tonne) Acid Slurry Soft (per kg) 24.00 Acid Slurry Hard (per kg) Phosphoric Acid (per 50 kg) 900.00 Pot. Nitrate (per quintal) 900-1200.00 Pot. Permanganate . 2300.00 (per 50 kg) Sod. Bichromate 1050-1150.00 (per 50 kg) Tri-Sod. Phosphate 350-380.00 (per 50 kg) Titanium Dioxide Anatase 57.00 (per ka) Titanium RC-822 (per kg) 76.00 Zinc Oxide (per mt) 35,000-42,000.00 Phenol Carbolic Acid 33.00 (per kg) Carbon Tetrachloride (per kg) 20.00 28.00 Chloroform (per kg) Sodium Sulphate 160-170.00 (per 50 kg) Naphthalene Balls (per 50 kg) 1350.00 (per kg) DYES & COLOURS 158.00 Nachthol AS 249.00 Naphthol ASG 210.00 Naphthol ASBS ... 320.00 Naphthol ASTR 202.00 Nachthol ASOL 220.00 Naphthol ASBO (per kg) DIRECT DYES 110-160.00 Black E. Conc. 105-130.00 Diazo Black MT 100.127.00 Green B 60-92.00 Blue 2-B

Sky Blue FB

Basic Violet

Acid Orange

Basic Auramine

Basic Rhodamine

Basic Mothylene Biuc

Basic Malachite Green

213.00

55-110.00

220-320.00

92-130.00

142-160.00

140 165.00

45 88 00

#### (DELHI MARKET RATES AS ON AU GUST 19, 1988)

Ammonia Bicarb (per 25	kg) 140.00
Mercury (per flask)	11,000.00
Soda ash (per bag)	270-300.03
Ammonium chloride	
(per 50 kg)	125-180.00
Caustic soda solid	No Stock
Caustic soda flakes	
(per 50 kg)	398-400.00
Citric acid (per 50 kg) 2	100-2400.00
Stable Bleaching Powder	
Shriram (per 25 kg)	95.00
Stable Bleaching Powder	KCI
(per 25 kg)	86.00
Stable Bleaching Powder	
MODI (per 25 kg.)	88.00
Sod. Bicarbonate	205 275 00
(per 50 kg)	265-275.00
Sod. Hydro Sulphite	27.42.00
(per kg)	37-43.00
Rangolite (ner kg)	50-70.00

Rangolite (per kg)

Boric acid Technical	
(per 50 kg)	1025.00
Paraffin wax (per 50 kg)	650.00
Tartaric acid (per 50 kg)	6,000.00
Borax Granular (per 50 kg)	565.00
Borax Crystal (per 50 kg)	580.00
Sodium Nitrate (per 50 kg	) 430.00
Sodium Nitrite (per 50 kg)	675-700.00
Camphor Powder (per kg)	88.00
Camphor Thal (per kg)	102.00
Menthol Medium (per kg)	265.00
Menthol Flakes (per kg)	236.00
Menthol Bold (per kg)	285.00
Glycerine (per kg)	47-48.00
Scdium Silicate	
	200-250.00
(per quintal)	34.00
Hexamine (per kg)	34.00

## MATERIALS IMPORTED

(Contd. from the previous issue)

BOMBAY (From 22-2-88 to 29-2-88)

SODIUM 2 ETHYL HEXANO-ATE: From UK: Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., 1,000 kgs., Rs. 66,864.

SODIUM GLUCONATE POW-DER: From Netherlands: Grauer & Weil (India) Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 37,651.

SODIUM METHOXIDE: From FRG: Hindustan Lever Ltd., 1,000 kgs., Rs. 51,739.

SODIUM NITRITE: From FRG: Indian Dyestuff Ind. Ltd., 21,000 kgs., Rs. 1,14,734,

EPICHLORO HYDRINE: From Japan: M. J. Exports P. Ltd., 15,840 kgs., Rs. 3,49,612.

SOYA LECITHIN: From Brazil: Britannia Inds. Ltd., 15 kgs., Rs. 99, 321; Jenson & Nicholson India Ltd., 5,000 kgs., Rs. 34,471; From FRG: Fluid Air India Pvt. Ltd., 17 Mts., Rs. 1,12,565; Nesha Plast Inds., 34 Mts., Rs. 2,25,130; From Japan: Cornstram Steel, 17 Mts., Rs. 1,12,565.

STEMONE: From Switzerland: Mysorewala Sugandhit Dhoop Factory, 25 kgs., Rs. 11,071.

"SUCRALFATE: From China: Lupin Labs Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 68,487.

SULPHURIC ACID: From France: Shivalik Bimetal Controls Ltd., 1,620 lbs., Rs. 16,840.

SULPHUR INSOLUBLE: From FRG: Modi Rubber Ltd., 16,000 kgs., Rs. 4,73,539.

SULPHUR INSOLUBLE: From Japan: Bombay Boat Builders & Co., 5,000 kgs., Rs. 68,162.

SYNTHETIC RESIN: From Japan: Chetra Polycoats Pvt. Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 39,988; From

UK: Snowcem India Ltd., 39.2 Mts., Rs. 6,15,466; From USA: Eagle Plastic Pvt. Ltd., 12,727 kgs., Rs. 3,69,132; Mansukhlal & Co., 172.37 kgs., Rs. 11,819; Poonam Plastic Inds., 40 Mts., Rs. 1,97,346.

TEREPHTHALIC ACID PURE: From UK: Reliance Inds. Ltd., 2,000 Mts., Rs. 1,49,63,430.

TETRA HYDROXY PARAME-THYL QUINOLINE: From Switzerland: Mysorewala Sugandhit Dhoop Factory, 1 kg., Rs. 1,359.

THIOUREA: From Japan: Eagle Chemical Works, 1,000 kgs., Rs. 24,668; From Japan: Industrial Trading Co., 1,425 Mts., Rs. 32,932; Parth Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., 1,000 kgs., Rs. 24,668.

TITANIUM DIOXIDE: From Japan: Wellknown Tools & Equipments, 17,000 kgs., Rs. 4,63,501; From USA: Chemicals De Universe P. Ltd., 17 Mts., Rs. 5,18,681; U.K. Paint Inds., 68 Mts., Rs. 17,56,893.

TITANIUM DIOXIDE RUTILE: From Belgium: The National Leather Cloth Mfg., 18,000 kgs., Rs. 5,35,170; From France: Burroughs Wellcome (India) Mts., Rs. 2,47,134; Uptron Capacitions Ltd., 9 Mits., Rs. 2,47,-134; From Japan: Garware Paints Ltd., 17,500 kgs., Rs. 4,65,774; Shriram Honda Power Equipment, 15,607 Mts., Rs. 4,48,318; Unilok Adhesives & Chemicals Ltd., 250 kgs., Rs. 14,444; From UK: Sigma Paints Ltd., 20,000 kgs., Rs. 5,72.561; From USA: Asian Paints India Ltd., 2,04,000 kgs., Rs. 52,309,952; Brcs., 15,607 Mts., Rs. 4,48,818.

TOLUENE DI ISOCYANATE: From Belgium: Leo Templon Insulation Pvt. Ltd., 5,500 kgs., Rs 1,53,527.

TRIETHYLAMINE: From USA: Tata Exports Ltd., 3,039.1 kgs., Rs. 65,696.

TRIETHYL PHOSPHATE: From FRG: IDI, 3,080 kgs., Rs. 1,35,510.

3,4,5 TRIMETHOXY BENZAL-DEHYDE: From China: Suchem Laboratories, 1,000 kgs., Rs. 2,85,631.

TRIMETHOXY BENZALDEHY-DE: From Japan: 1,020 kgs., Rs. 31,208/44 Sieves Manufacturers, 1,000 kgs., Rs. 2,75,894.

3,4,5 TRIMETHOXY BENZAL-DEHYDE: From Poland: Curefast Drugs & Intermediates, 100 kgs., Rs. 3,44,056.

TRIMETHOXY BENZALDEHY-DE: From Romania: The S.T.C. of India Ltd., 1,000 kgs., Rs. 2,75,894.

3,4,5 TRIMETHOXY BENZAL-DEHYDE: From Saudi Arabia: Grover Overseas P. Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 1,52,554.

TRIMETHYLOL PROPANE: From Sweden: Goodlass Nerolac Paints Ltd., 13,000 kgs., Rs. 2,95,369.

2,2,4 TRIMETHYL 1,3 PENTA-NE DI ISOBUTYRATE: From Japan: Vijay Cable Inds., 15,200 kgs., Rs. 2,04,252,

VANILLIN: From Switzerland: The Bharat Indl. Corpn., 30 kgs., Rs. 14,086.

VINYL ACETATE MONOMER: From USA: Cibatul Ltd., 16,872 kgs., Rs. 2,38,768.

VINYLIDENE FLUORIDE: From USA: Syp Engineering Corpn. 100 kgs., Rs. 22,941.

VINYL RESIN: From USA: C. J. Shah & Co., 2,250 lbs., Rs. 43,818; C. J. Shah & Co., 2,250 lbs., Rs. 55,503.

XYLENES: From Australia: The Raymond Woollen Mills Ltd., 288 ktrs., Rs. 9,130.

XYLIDINE: From Switzerland: Colour Chem. Ltd., 5,000 kgs., Rs. 3,26,220.

2,4 XYLIDINE: From Switzerland: M. B. Finance Corporation, 2,000 kgs., Rs. 1,30,488; Unity Dye Chem, 600 kgs., Rs. 44,084.

2,6 XYLIDINE: From Switzerland: Mahendra Chemicals, 1,200 kgs., Rs. 1,50,974.

## ORUGS MATERIALS IMPORTED

BOMBAY (From 16,2.88 to 29,2.88)

D-ALPHA PHENYL GLYCINE CHLORIDE HYDROCHLORIDE: From Neitherlands: Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., 12,075 kgs., Rs. 34,96,031.

AMIDOTRIZOIC ACID USP: From FRG: German Remedies Ltd., 2,035.2 kgs., Rs. 13,85,562. AMPICILLIN TRIHYDRATE: From Netherlands: Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 16,19,011.

AMPROLIUM HCL: From USA: Prapul Vitamins, 200 kgs., Rs. 68,811.

BETAINE BASE MONOHYDR-ATE: From FRG: U.S. Vitamins (India) Ltd., 640 kgs., Rs. 77,096.

CALCIUM D PANTOTHENA-TE USP: From Japan: Bombay Pharma Products, 500 kgs., Rs. 87,637; E. Merck India Ltd., 600 kgs., Rs. 1,09,059.

CHLOROFORM BP: From FRG: Unique Pharmaceuticals Lab., 16.38 Mts., Rs. 2,13,543.

CITRIC ACID BP 80: From China: G. Amphray Laboratories, 35 Mts., Rs. 5,63,472.

CITRIC ACID MONOHYDRA-TE BP: From China: Lyka Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., 350 kgs., Rs. 6,816; Kopi Chem Dye., 17.5 Mts., Rs. 2,94,235; From China: Meena Chemical Inds., 20 Mts., Rs. 3,36,266; Samir Trading Corpn., 35 Mts., Rs. 5,88,466.

CREATININE: From Australia: Cadila Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., 60 kgs., Rs. 72,879.

ERYTHROMYCIN THIOCYAN-ATE: From Italy: Sumedha Chemicals, 1,337,55 kgs., Rs. 10,-67,872.

LACTOSE BP/USP/IP: From Netherlands: Searle (India) Ltd., 5,000 kgs., Rs. 62,404.

L-LYSINE MONO HCL USP: From Japan: N. R. Jet Pharmaceuticals Ltd., 400 kgs., Rs. 25,-966.

MANNITOL USP/BP: From Australia: Tata Exports Ltd., 1,000 kgs., Rs. 23,370.

MANNITOL USP PYROGEN FREE: From Brazil: Hindustan Ciba Geigy Ltd., 7,000 kgs., Rs. 1,49,957; Sarabhai Chemicals, 2,000 kgs., Rs. 45,124.

MEGLUMINE BP/USP: From FRG: German Remedies Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 1,31,541.

METHYL SALICYLATE BP: From France: Bombay Drug House Ltd., 1,000 kgs., Rs. 40,577.

NALIDIXIC ACID USP: From UK: Win Medicare Ltd., 750 kgs., Rs. 6,43,865.

NOVALDIAMINE: From FRG: IPCA Labs Pvt. Ltd., 1,980 kgs., Rs. 6,25,317.

PANCREATIN IP: From FRG: Hoechst India Ltd., 5,000 kgs., Rs. 23,832.90.

PARACETAMOL BP: From China: Inca Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., 850 kgs., Rs. 73,387.

PENICILLIN G POTASSIUM: From UK: Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., 10,800 kgs., Rs. 27,69,979.

PHENOL USP: From Japan: Ata Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., 50,000 kgs., Rs. 6,16,704; From Japan: S. D. Fine Chem Pvt. Ltd., 16,000 kgs., Rs. 2,07,732.

POLYSORBATE 60: From Switzerland: Parke Davis (India) Ltd., 3,000 kgs., Rs. 96,623.

POVIDONE IODINE USP: From USA: Wockhardt Ltd., 4,500 kgs., Rs. 3,05,723.

PROPYLENE GLYCOL USP: From Singapore: Lupin Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., 17.2 kgs., Rs. 1,89,817; M. J. Exports Pvt. Ltd., 16.770 Mts., Rs. 1,80,716; Revex Plasticisers P. Ltd., 8,600 kgs., Rs. 94,908; From USA: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., 41,925 kgs., Rs. 4,46,345.

PYRAZINAMIDE BP/USP: From Korea: Lupin Laboratories Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 2,50,576.

FYRAZINAMIDE: From Korea: Lupin Labs. Pvt. Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 2,59,341.

PYRIDOXINE HYDROCHLOR-IDE USP: From Japan: Bombay Fharma Products, 400 kgs., Rs. 1,86,959.

SODIUM D PANTOTHENATE: From Japan: Parke Davis India Ltd., 250 kgs., Rs. 99,908.

SULPHADIAZINE IP/BP: From China: Pharmpak Pvt. Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 5,19,330.

TARTARIC ACID BP/USP: From FRG: Cadia Laboratories P. Ltd., 18,000 kgs., Rs. 6,49,019.

THEOPHYLLINE MONOHYDR-ATE: From USSR: Torrent Exports Pvt. Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 1,41,050.

VITAMIN B6 USP: From Japan: UNI UCB Ltd., 250 kgs., Rs. 1,19,771.

### Plastic Materials Imported

BOMBAY

(From 16.2.88 to 19.2.88)

COPOLYMER OF ETHYLENE AND METHACRYLIC ACID: From USA: BSSEC Packaging Ltd., 268 kgs., Rs. 61,670.

HIGH IMPACT POLYSTYR-ENE: From Korea: Bright Bros. Ltd., 25 Mts., Rs. 4,70,643.

HDPE: From Czechoslovakia: Associated Bros., 37.5 Mts., Rs. 3,45,699; Associated Plastic Industries, 100 Nits., Rs. 9,21,864; Hardik Indl. Corporation, Mts., Rs. 6,91,398; From Malaysia: Adinath Narrow Fabrics P. Ltd., 17.150 Mts., Rs. 2,31,569; From Saudi Arabia: Maruti Plastic Inds., 51.450 Mits., Rs. 6,27,-909; Minocha Button Stores, 17.150 Mts., Rs. 2,10,416; Plastic Processors, 34.30 iVits., Rs. 4,47,552; From Taiwan: Bahar Plastics Ltd., 200 Mits., Rs. 32,-76,185; From Yugoslavia: Vee Pee Finance Pvt. Ltd., 100 Mts., Rs. 10,81,012.

HDPE BLOW MOULDING GRADE: From Czechoslovakia: Kalpesh Plastic Inds., 125 Mts., Rs. 11,52,330.

HDPE INJECTION MOULDING GRADE: From Saudi Arabia: Chemofine Corporation, 49,400 Mts., Rs. 5,80,868.

HDPE RESIN GRADE: From Singapore: Giltpack Ltd., 99,000 kgs., Rs. 12,72,488.

Unnati Packaging Inds., 15 Mts., Rs. 1,13,344; From FRG: Finolex Cables Ltd., 49.5 Mts., Rs. 6,10,537; Siemens Ltd., Rs. 49.5 Mts., Rs. 6,10,536; From FRG: Siemens Ltd., 49.5 Mts., Rs. 6,10,536; From Yugoslavia; Pearl Plast International, 25 Mts., Rs. 3,09,241; Ravi International, 60 Mts., Rs. 7,42,800.

LLDPE: From Czechoslovakia: Unnati Packaging Inds., 1.5 Mts., Rs. 1,13,344; From Saudi Arabia: Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd., 1,287.00 Mts., Rs. 1,85,-02,675; Jamnadas Murlidhar Jaisingh, 24.750 Mts., Rs. 3,06,-875.

LLDPE RESIN: From USA: Ecoplast P. Ltd., 16 Mts., Rs. 2,13,964.

PHTHALIC PLASTICIZERS: From Korea: Caprihans India Ltd., 48,600 kgs., Rs. 6,77,532.

POLYETHYLENE: From France: Industrial Cables India Ltd., 19.2 Mts., Rs. 3,42,758; From Singapore: Hari Vishnu Packaging Ltd., 33 Mts., Rs. 4,28,447; From Sweden: Vindhya Telelinks Ltd., 202.5 Mts., Rs. 29,89,065.

POLYETHYLENE RESIN: From Canada: Bharat Vijay Mills Ltd., 74.250 Mts., Rs. 8,89,778.

POLYPROPYLENE: From Czechoslovakia: Naresh Paper Bag Co., 14 Mts., Rs. 1,62,208; Valia Impex P. Ltd., 14 Mts., Rs. 1,62,-208; From France: Gujarat Propack Ltd., 30,000 kgs., Rs. 13,-96,997; From Italy: Caprihans India Ltd., 30 Mts., Rs. 5,21,928; From Singapore: Diamond Polyplast Pvt. Ltd., 16 Mts., Rs. 2,88,-747; Richardson Hindustan Ltd., 16 Mts., Rs. 2,92,902; From USA: Creative Plastic Inds., 99.525 Mts., Rs. 12,92,158; Furn Plastic Inds. Ltd., 12,5 Mts., Rs. 2,28,113; Sanghvi Hardware Stores, 20.411 Mts., Rs. 2,91,501.

POLYPROPYLENE FILM GRA-DE: From Singapore: Fraternity Electronics Ltd., 16,000 kgs., Rs. 2,78,361

POLYPROPYLENE INJ. GRA-DE: From USA: Gujarat Plastic Inds., 42,070 kgs., Rs. 4,36,964.

POLYPROPYLENE RESIN: From Korea: Sanghvi Filaments

Pvt. Ltd., 3 Mts., Rs. 44,143.
POLYSTYRENE: From Mexico
Lucky Plastic, Rs. 1,43,371.

POLYSTYRENE RESIN: From Korea: Steriplate Pvt. Ltd., 51 Mts., Rs. 9,58,158.

POLYTETRAFLUOROETHYLENE: From Japan: Space Application Cables, 1,000 kgs., Rs. 1,39,570.

PVC RESIN: From Japan: Phiroze Sethna Pvt. Ltd., 3.5 Mts., Rs. 1,01,959; From Mexico: Prakash Pipes & Inds. Ltd., 100 Mts., Rs. 12,11,460; From Yugoslavia: Ajay Indl. Corporation, 10,000 kgs., Rs. 1,14,560; Jain Bros. Industries, 946 Mts., Rs. 1,18,-37,905.

PVC RESIN SUSPENSION GR-ADE: From Romania: Usha Chemical Inds., 100 Mts., Rs. 12,-22,601.

PVC MASS POLYMER GRADE: From Yugoslavia: Jain Tube Co. Ltd., 325 kgs., Rs. 42,76,426; Premier Vinyl Flooring Ltd., 100 Mts., Rs. 13,14,935.

PVC STABILISERS: From FRG: Lightcraft Corporation, 2,860 kgs., Rs. 2,84,300.

BOMBAY (From 22.2.88 to 29.2.88)

HDPE: From Belgium: Plastic Processors, 84.925 Mts., Rs. 11,-28,870; Polyplast Pvt. Ltd\_ 32.825 Mits., Rs. 4,36,329; From FRG: Jindal Stripes Ltd., 24,750 kgs., Rs. 3,22,942; From Japan: Maniyal Packaging Pvt. Ltd., 33 Mts., Rs. 4,32,730; Raj Kamal Plastics Pvt. Ltd., 32.45 Mts., Rs. 4,87,215; Suresh C. Doshi, 16 Mts., Rs. 1,81,765; From Korea: Calcum Electronics Pvt. Ltd., 17 Mts., Rs. 3,24,451; Hindustan Copper Ltd., 74,250 kgs., Rs. 9,68,826; From Saudi Arabia; Jaisingh Packaging, 102,900 Mts., Rs. 13,35,976; J. K. Sayani Enterprises, 49.5 Mts.,

9,097; Khetan Packaging Pvt. , 17.5 Mts., Rs. 2,84,008; vur Plastics, 17.150 Mts., Rs. Marketing, 1,569; Prince 450 Mts., Rs. 6,71,328; t Plastics, 34.65 Mts., 5,577; Texplast Engg. ., 33,000 kgs., Rs. 4,32,731; Plast, 24.750 Mts., Rs. 3,22,-2; From Singapore: Hari Vish-Packaging Ltd., 49.5 Mts., Rs. 0,871; PVD Plast Mould Inds. . 24,750 kgs., Rs. 3,22,942; ta Exim P. Ltd., 99 Mts., Rs. 33,924; From Taiwan: Jagh Prasad Jain, 24,750 kgs., 3,22,942; From USA: Darshit erprises, 105 Mts., Rs. 10,-430; From Yugoslavia: Lucky ders, 48 Mts., Rs. 5,14,101; per Suppliers, 131 Mts., Rs. 83,356.

HDPE INJ. MOULDING GRA-From USA: United Brothers, 5 Mts., Rs. 10,22,430.

HDPE MOULDING POWDER: om Saudi Arabia: Hindustan cuum Glass Ltd., 17.150 kgs., . 2,24,889.

HDPE RESIN: From Canada: arat Vijay Mills Ltd., 49.5 Mts, 5,93,185; From Korea: Hinstan Copper Ltd., 1,48,500

S.

LDPE: From Brazil: Ansat Plass Pvt. Ltd., 150 kgs., Rs. 18,-526; Indian Petrochemicals orpn. Ltd. 2,550 Mts., Rs. 3,14,-,301; From FRG: Industrial les Corpn., 20 Mts., Rs. 2,13,-4; Milan Inds., 21.5 Mts., Rs. 29,732; Ravindra Plastic Inds., Mts., Rs. 3,20,556; Vipul Enprises, 30 Mts., Rs. 3,20,556; om Qatar: Indian Petrochemi-Is Corpn., 594 Mts., Rs. 86,-3,363; From Singapore: V. K. gineering Plastic Inds., 16.5 ts., Rs. 2,42,073; From UK: narat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd., 17 ts., Rs. 2,33,958; From Yugos. via: Asian Polymers Pvt. Ltd.,

100 Mts., Rs. 10,91,464; Ravi International, 40,000 kgs., Rs. 4,95,200; From Yugoslavia: Ravi International, 40,000 kgs., Rs. 4,95,200.

LDPE MOULDING POWDER: From FRG: Milan Industries, 30 Mis., Rs. 3,20,556; Suvin Coextrusions Pvt. Ltd., 50 Mts., Rs. 5,34,260.

POLYACETAL MOULDING POWDER: From Japan: Peico Electronics & Elect. Ltd., 2,000 kgs., Rs. 57,126.

POLYACRYLIC ACID: From USA: PDI Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., 2,400 lbs., Rs. 62,320.

POLYETHYLENE MOULDING POWDER: From FRG: Albert David Ltd., 15 Mts., Rs. 2,50,-551.

POLYPROPYLENE: From Australia: Beijaj Plastics Ltd.,

191,875 Mts., Rs. 33,07,483; From Belgium: Kanpur Plastipack Ltd., 139.3 Mts., Rs. 24,65,758; From Czechoslovakia: Associated Plastic Inds., 14 Mts., Rs. 1,62,-208; From France: Rajasthan Petro Synthetics Ltd., 1,500 kgs., Rs. 3,28,219; Rajasthan Petro synthetics Ltd., 1,500 kgs., Rs. 3,28,219; Arjun Impex, 41.16 Mts., Rs. 2,88,747; From FRG: Gujarat Propack Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 30,280; New Plastomers India Ltd., 14 Mts., Rs. 2,40,464, From Italy: Furt Plastic Inds. Ltd. 30 Mts., Rs. 5,21,926; Joshi Formulabs P. Ltd., 15,000 kgs., Rs. 2,43,436; Mutual Steel Inds., 30 Mts., Rs. 5,21,326; Tepack Inds., 15,000 kgs., Rs. 2,47,131; From Netherlands: Cosmo Films Ltd., 64,000 kgs., Rs. 11,46,479; Garware Wali Ropes Ltd., 1,28,000



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kgs., Rs. 21,66,161; From Singapore: Noval Products, 16,000 kgs., Rs. 2,84,593; From UK: Qadri Commercial Corpn., 15,000 kgs., Rs. 2,37,595; From USSR: Patin Bros. Pvt. Ltd., 16 Mts., Rs. 2,88,747; From Yugoslavia: Eagle Flasks Pvt. Ltd., 496 Mts., Rs. 89,54,188.

POLYPROPYLENE RESIN: From Bulgaria: Nidhi Plastics P. Ltd., 196.45 Mts., Rs. 34,17,-866.

POLYSTYRENE: From Korea: A. K. Structural Foam Ltd., 8,000 kgs., Rs. 1,92,152.

POLYSTYRENE MOULDING POWDER: From Korea: Dilip Industries, 17 Mts., Rs. 3,11,208.

POLYSTYRENE: From Korea: Sargodha Enterprises, 17 Mts., Rs. 3,20,037; From Mexico: Hemant Plastic Inds., 2.000 Mts., Rs. 12,08,640; Seth Plastic Bhandar, 52.5 Mts., Rs. 9,06,-

480; Verma Extrusions Pvt. Ltd., 10 Mts., Rs. 1,43,371.

PROPYLENE GLYCOL: From USA: Unit and Industries, 10.105 Mts., Rs. 1,06,269.

PTFE: From Japan: Jayems Technical Associates, 1,000 kgs., Rs. 1,13,603.

PTFE RESIN: From Australia: Nalin India Ltd., 1,200 kgs., Rs. 1,71,379; From FRG: Garg Associates Pvt. Ltd., 4,000 kgs., Rs. 5,45,296; From Italy: Hindustan Ferrodo Ltd., 780 kgs., Rs. 1,06,333; From Japan: Asheston Packing & Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd., 500 kgs., Rs. 64,917; Fluoropolymer Products Inds., 2,300 kgs., Rs. 3,33,734; Sealwell Inds., 550 kgs., Rs. 67,578; From Brazil: Bhagirath Agro Plast P. Ltd., 50 Mts., Rs. 6,46,005; Novilex Plastic Pvt. Ltd., 100 Mts., Rs. 12,-

92,354; Trimurti Foods & Pha Pvt. Ltd., 50 Mts., Rs. 6,46,0

**FVC RESIN: From Korea: H** Leather Cloth Mfg. Co. P. L 30 Mts., Rs. 4,56,505; Hind tan Copper Ltd., 100 Mts., 12,92,353; Mohan Overseas Ltd., 75 Mts., Rs. 10,36,045; National Leather Cloth Mfg., Mts., Rs. 12,01,558; From Me co: Ashish Industries 201 to Rs. 27,21,948; Prakash Pipes Inds. Ltd., 100 Mts., Rs. 12,1 460; From Poland: Gwalior Po pipes Ltd., 247.5 Mts., Rs. 2 33,126; From Saudi Arabia: N nish Vinyals 50 Mts., Rs. 7,5 029; Varsha Agro Plast Pvt, Lt 100 Mts., Rs. 13,82,590; Fro Turkey: Vinyl Products, Mts., Rs. 27,85,571; From Yu oslavia: Accurate Pipes & Pla tics Pvt. Ltd., 25 Mts., Rs. 3,3 034; Garware Plastics & Po ester Ltd., 800 Mts., Rs. 1,0 80,197; Marvel Vinyl Pvt. Ltd 50 Mts., Rs. 6,62,068; Orient Extrusions Pvt. Ltd., 175 Mt Rs. 23,12,824; Polycab Inds., 2 Mts., Rs. 3,31,034.

PVC RESIN SUSPENSIO GRADE: From France: India Plastic Bhandar, 44.87 Mts., R 5,70,337; From Japan: Godhaw ri Brothers India Pvt. Ltd., 2 Mts., Rs. 3,53,466; From Korea The Bhor Inds. Ltd., 200 Mts Rs. 28,17,344; Jain Tube Co Ltd., 100 Mts., Rs. 13,05,084 From Taiwan: P. Hira, 25 Mts Rs. 3,53,466; From Turkey: Gwa lior Polypipes Ltd., 749.625 Mts Rs. 18,48,872; Premier Viny Flooring Ltd., 75,375 Mts., Rs 9,34,009; Uniplast India Ltd 100.125 Mts., Rs. 12,46,325 From USA: American Embass 25 Mts., Rs. 3,53,466; From Yu goslavia: Oriental Extrusion Pv Ltd., 100 Mts., Rs. 11,71,474 Selfshine Industries, 100 Mts Rs. 14,39,371.

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N. Butyric Acid
H. Heptane

P.C.B.A.
Paraformaldehyde 84-85%
Perchloro Ethylene
Petroleum Ether 40-60%
Sodium Methoxide
Thiourea
Tri-Chloro Ethylene Glycol
Tertiary Butyl Alcohol
Zinc Dust

Quinoline

## RAJENDRA & COMPANY

Gopal House (2nd Floor), 7/9, Kumbharwada Cross Lane, Veer Vithaldas Chandan Street, BOMBAY-400 003.

Phone: 321020/339968/344937

For Your Requirements Of:

#### MONO ETHYLENE GLYOL

1. Acetic Acid

2. Behenyl Alcohol

3. Glauber's Salt

4. Hydrazine Hydrate

5. Lithophone

6. N. Heptane

7. Permanent Yellow GRL-80 Hoechst German make for Printing Ink

Neo Zopon Dyes — Yellow & Orange

9. Ethyl Acrylate

10. Para Chloro Benzene Sulphonamide Aci

11. Soisperse - ICI, U.K. make Dispersant for Paint and Printing Ink

12. Di Chloro Diphenyl Sulphone

13. Desmorapid Catalyst for Foam Industry

14. Ion Exchange Resins

15. Water Treatment Plants & Chemicals.

Please Contact:

### M/s. Doshi & Company

7, Premjivan, 87, Kazi Sayed Street, Khand Bazar, Bombay-400 003.

Phone: 343480 Resi.: 455147,462564 Ahmedabad Phone: 877156; Resi,: 407909

Gram: DHRIECHEM

#### ANISIC ALDEHYDE \* ANISIC ALCOHOL CYCLOHEXANONE \* TARTARIC ACID

Toluene Benzene Xylene E.P. 60-80/40-60 M.I.B.K. DBP/DOP

Methylene Chloride C.T.C. / E.D.C. MMA Monomer N-Butanol Butyl & Ethyl Acetate Formaldehyde

Chloroform N. Hexene Methanol (Tech./Pure) Trichloroethylene I.P.A./M.E.K. Acetone (Tech./Pure)

Please Contact :

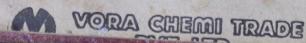
## Ajmera Chemicals

Phone: 325756/332325, Resi.: 696948 276/78, Samuel Street, 3rd, Floor R. No. 21, Bombay-400 003.

# Ammonium Bromide Potassium Carbonate 96% & 98% Zinc Dust 98%

Zinc Oxide

Rubber Grade — White Seal — I.P. Grade



265, Samuel Street, Bombay-400 003. Phones: 333762/63/64/325265/345377